THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

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Volleyball crushes annual Buttermaker

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2018
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NEWS

Later this September, students will soon be able to swipe their Muhlenberg College student ID cards on LANTA buses to obtain free rides around the Lehigh Valley.

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ARTS & CULTURE

Sophie Treadwell’s Machinal, directed by Baker Artist-in-Residence Lou Jacobs, is set to spark emotion and explore dark themes when it hits the Baker stage from Sept. 27 to 30.

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OP/ED

Brooke Greenberg ‘21 speaks on her unique experience as a Jewish woman visiting Dachau Concentration Camp in Germany.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF MUHLENBERG ATHLETICS

SPORTS

Coming off a bowl game victory in the fall, Nate Milne leads Mules to victory in what marks his first career win as head coach of the football team.

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Café Frais fresh no more

By Will Wamser
Op/Ed Editor

Café Frais first opened its doors less than year ago and this past Tuesday its doors closed “effective immediately,” according to the eatery’s Facebook page.

Café Frais was a small café on the corner of Liberty and 23rd Street and diagonal from the Tavern, a popular bar for Allentown residents and Muhlenberg students. The Cafe also deleted its Facebook page around 10:45 pm on Tuesday, Sept. 11. Their full statement read: “It is with great sadness that I announce that Cafe Frais will be shutting its doors effective immediately. We have loved serving you all and appreciate your business and your time.”

see **Cafe** page 1

College hires Dr. Brooke Vick as Associate Provost for Diversity Initiatives

By Chloe Gravereaux
Editor-in-Chief

Over the summer Dr. Brooke Vick joined the Provost senior staff as its new Associate Provost for Faculty and Diversity Initiatives (APFDI), a new position which oversees creation and maintenance of a diverse and inclusive campus.

Responsibilities of the APFDI include the hiring of new and part-time faculty, recruiting and maintaining faculty from underrepresented groups and overseeing the implementation of the Diversity Strategic plan. Vick will additionally be working with student groups such as Emerging Leaders, President’s council for diversity, the multicultural center as well as leading Intergroup dialogue, in which she is trained. She hopes to bring to campus a culture of listening inside and outside the classroom, as she has done on previous campuses.

“I’ve worked with faculty at other campuses, bringing intergroup dialogue techniques to them and helping them understand how they can bring some of that understanding into their classrooms,” said Vick, “and how we can bring some of that understanding into how we relate to people on campus. I was a professor for 12 years before I came here and I would use intergroup dialogue in my seminars, classes. They weren’t intergroup dialogue classes, but I would bring those techniques into the classroom.”

> **“I had to have this grand plan about who I was and how I would present that to other people.”**

Intergroup dialogue is the process of having a conversation between individuals of different social standings.

“One of the first things you learn [in intergroup dialogue] is how to practice listening and the difference in hearing and listening. Often when people are talking with us, we’re hearing what they’re saying but part of our brain is thinking about how we’re going to respond, or what we think they’re going to say. We have our inner judgement on,” said Vick. “And what listening is is shutting all that off, and learning to be dialed in to what someone has to say and listening to understand as opposed to listen to respond.”

Vick herself is a liberal arts graduate, earning her undergraduate degree in psychology with a minor in women’s studies and a concentration in theatre from Colorado College. As a student, Vick felt the need to justify her choice in studies.

“I was really concerned with making sure that everyone understood how psychology and women’s studies and theatre all fit together. I had to have this grand plan about who I was and how I would present that to other people,” said Vick. “ [Looking back,] I would tell myself to allow myself to enjoy the diversity of things that I was doing without being so concerned ... that I have this whole story about what it is and why I’m doing it.”

She went on to earn her M.A and Ph.D in social psychology before taking a teaching job at Whitman College teaching social psychology, the psychology of prejudice, social stigma and intergroup relations and working to bring intergroup dialogue techniques into the classroom.

While Vick is the first to take on the official role as APFDI, explained Provost Dr. Kathleen Harring, the position itself is not new but rather an outgrowth of an already existing position. The tasks had previously been assigned to the Associate Dean for Diversity, a part-time position created three years ago as part of the Diversity Strategic plan. Harring’s concern was that faculty took on the part-time position in addition to teaching a full course load.

“The breadth and the depth of the responsibility for the position needed someone who was doing it more than 50 percent of the time,” said Harring. “So when I became the Provost, I restrustrued the provost’s office and moved the associate dean position to an associate provost position.”

“Vick brings to her position as associate provost of faculty and diversity initiatives a deep understanding of theory and research in intergroup dynamics and experience applying these ideas to support inclusion and equity in higher education,″ said Harring in an interview with the Office of Communications. “I am thrilled that she is joining Muhlenberg and the provost senior staff team.″

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

Monday, September 3
Sick Student - 4:54 p.m.
A student was transported to the hospital from the Health Center.

Injured Student - 9:18 p.m.
In Scotty Wood Stadium there was a report of an injured student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded and the student refused further treatment or transport.

Fire Alarm Sounding - 11:56 p.m.
There was a report of a fire alarm sounding from steam from a shower. The system was silenced and reset.

Tuesday, September 4
Alcohol Violation - 1:30 a.m.
On the stadium back drive, there was a report of an alcohol violation. A student was identified and transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety officer. A non-student was transported to the hospital by Allentown EMS and will be cited by Allentown police for public drunkeness.

Institutional Vandalism - 10:30 a.m.
In Walz Hall there was a report of graffiti found on a phonebooth. Housekeeping was notified to remove it. There are no suspects at this time.

Found Property - 3:00 p.m.
In Martin Luther Lot there was a report of a found vial unknown to whom it belongs. The item was placed in the lost and found locker.

Wednesday, September 5
Injured student - 1:32 p.m.
In Brown mall, there was a report of an injured student. The student was transported to the Health Center and then the hospital.

Thursday, September 6
Institutional Vandalism
On Walz hall third floor, there was a report of vandalism. An unknown individual pulled a door from its frame, causing damage to the hinge. Plant Operations was notified to repair the damage.

Friday, September 7
Suspicious person - 9:45 p.m.
On the front drive, there was a report of suspicious person. The area was checked and an individual could not be located.

Saturday, September 8
Fire Safety Violation - 5:33 p.m.
In Benfer Hall second floor there was a report of a fire alarm sounding from vaping. The system was silenced and reset.

Drug Violation - 10:33 p.m.
On the third floor of Brown, there was a report of possession of drug paraphernalia. The individuals were identified and spoken to and referred to the Dean of Students.

Sunday, September 9
Alcohol Violation - 12:12 a.m.
There was a report of an alcohol violation in Walz hall. The student was identified, spoken to and transported to the hospital by a campus safety officer.

Sick Student - 12:30 a.m.
In Prossor Annex first floor, there was a report of a sick student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded. The student was transported to the hospital by a campus safety officer.

NEW! Chirashi & Poké Bowls

A sushi-inspired salad with fresh sushi rice, chicken or a variety of fish, and locally sourced vegetables. Available now at Ikigaii in the GQ!

Muhlenberg GENERAL'S QUARTERS

Ikigaii

Check out all that's new at the GQ this year!

Transportation ties:

Muhlenberg reaches agreement with LANTA bus that will soon allow students to ride for free

By Sydney Coplin
News Editor

602 WHITEHALL MALL
LANtaBus
0467

Photo Courtesy of Jason Smith via Flickr

Access to the LANTA Bus will grant students free access to destinations across the Lehigh Valley.

In an effort to provide an economically friendly and exceptionally convenient option for students to travel throughout the Lehigh Valley, Muhlenberg College recently signed an agreement with the Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority (LANTA) that will soon permit full-time students to ride LANTA buses for free by swiping their Berg ID card in the fare boxes.

"We are always looking for ways to increase ridership on our routes and Muhlenberg was looking to expand transportation options for its students," said Tiana Williams, Director of LANTA Bus Rider Experience.

While the agreement was signed about three weeks ago, the system is currently undergoing testing to ensure that student IDS will be able to swipe. As long as student IDs are working successfully, it is set to officially go into effect by the first week in October, as explained by Brenda Lakis, the Associate Director of Muhlenberg Campus Safety.

"I have been working with LANTA for over a year to try and make a deal with them that would be cost effective for the college," said Lakis. "We are still working out some of the details on how it will work."

According to a press release put out by LANTA, "LANTA fare boxes are programed to recognize Muhlenberg student identification cards to register the rider. The partnership agreement establishes a reimbursement rate to be paid to LANTA by the college for every trip taken by a Muhlenberg student."

"LANTA bus routes 213 and 322 provide connections from the Muhlenberg campus in Allentown's residential west end to downtown Allentown, as well as shopping and entertainment destinations like Cedar Pointe, Village West, Tilghman Square, Hamilton Crossings and Mill Creek's Walmart Center and Movie Tavern," were further details conveyed in the same press release from LANTA.

Owen P. O'Neil, Executive Director of LANTA, was one of the primary voices that worked alongside Lakis. In the press release, he noted that "The Lehigh Valley is fortunate to have thousands of students in several colleges and universities. LANTA is happy to add Muhlenberg to the list of those working to help their students use our regional transportation network to meet the needs of campus communities."

In addition to just providing free rides for students, "LANTA will be offering bus passes to faculty and staff at a discounted rate," added Lakis.

There are also some modifications being made to current transportation options already in place at Muhlenberg that will occur in the near future.

"Starting in the spring semester we will not be running the Cardinal Shuttle," said Lakis. "In January we are hoping to have at least two bus stops located on campus."

In other words, LANTA will eventually be replacing the Cardinal Shuttle. Clear-cut details on this adjustment are still in the process of being worked out, which is why it would not take place until at least next semester.

The Cardinal Shuttle is currently offered only a few days a week with a very specific schedule. LANTA runs seven days a week, which will allow for much more flexibility and availability for rides.

"Once we have the bus stops on campus, I will be sending out the routes these stops will follow. One bus will be heading east toward the downtown area, and one bus will head west toward Target, Hamilton Crossings, Walmart, LVHC, etc." said Lakis.

For now, the LANTA bus partnership for free rides should be all set within a few weeks, but an official announcement with more definitive details will be put out by Brenda Lakis and Campus Safety once everything is completely ready to go.

Dr. Lin-Chi Wang joins administration as Director of Equity and Title IX

By Matt Riebesell
Managing Editor

Muhlenberg's Haas College Center has a new inhabitant in one of its offices scattered with college administrators. Lin-Chi Wang is Muhlenberg's new Associate Dean of Students and Director of Equity and Title IX.

Wang arrives at Muhlenberg with a law degree from Michigan State University and experience as an Associate Attorney and Institutional Equity Investigator.

Her title may be a mouthful featuring two titles merged by many conjunctions but Wang painted her role at Muhlenberg with a broader stroke.

"Generally, I oversee and respond to reports and conduct related to discrimination and harassment based on protected categories under the College's Student Code of Conduct, Sexual and Gender-Based Misconduct Policy, Statement on Discriminatory Harassment and Hate/Bias Policy at the College to ensure equal opportunity for all students and employees," said Wang.

Wang's knowledge of Gender Violence and Sexual Misconduct is what impresses Vice President of Student Affairs, Dean Allison Gulati. "(Wang) shares information with faculty, staff and students in ways that are relatable, easy to understand and it makes this very critical information clear for our community to follow," said Gulati.

New projects aimed at college-wide nondiscrimination policy are beginning early in Wang's tenure. The practices will "align Muhlenberg College with nationwide best practices on addressing discriminatory and harassing conduct in higher education," according to Wang. She continued, "There will be opportunities for review and feedback from the Muhlenberg community before it goes to a board vote."

"Lin-Chi has already had multiple opportunities to meet with student groups and they have commented on her ability to dialog with them in ways that are open and make them feel comfortable," Gulati said regarding Wang's work thus far at 'Berg. Wang also realizes that she has assets within the current Muhlenberg community. "I have gotten some great ideas from students for new informational brochures and posters about sexual misconduct and dating violence reporting awareness." Wang anticipates those resources to be available in the "near future."

The immediate impact of the resources can play a significant role increasing "awareness, education and sense of compassion around issues of discrimination and harassment for historically and systematically underrepresented and marginalized communities," said Wang. These were aspects of the Muhlenbubble that Wang indicated could be improved. She expressed that communities benefit when they have an "understanding of why it′s important to have an elevated awareness."

Along with community feedback, Wang is working with W. Scott Lewis, J.D. Lewis is a "highly sought-after and respected Title IX consultant from the NCHERM Group," according to Wang. NCHERM, or the National Center for Higher Education Risk Management is self defined on their website as "a law and consulting firm that offers systems-level solutions for safer schools and campuses." NCHERM also "emphasizes best practices for policy, training, and prevention as proactive risk management."

Equity has been a primary focus of various revisions to the college's social code and Wang wants to engrain equity into the life of every member of the Muhlenberg community. "Commitment to ensuring equity ties directly into a sense of belonging in a community and respecting and accepting others in a community," explained Wang, "regardless of differences in race, gender identity, ability, or other bases of identity."

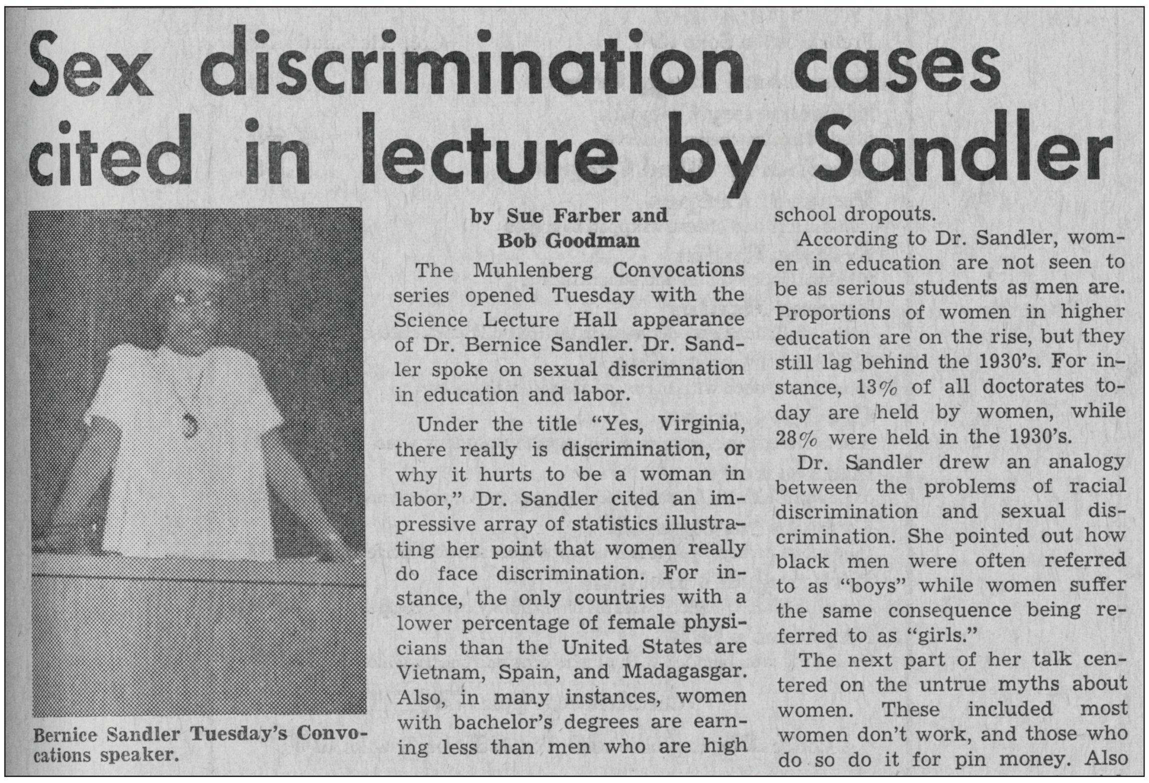
Gulati also expressed how integral equity is to the Muhlenberg community and how Wang can be involved with promoting one of the college's core value. "Every student has a right to pursue their degree and to participate in the complete college experience to the fullest. To do this, it requires all of us to act and implement programs and policies in ways that are equitable." She continued, "We are committed to providing a positive intellectual and social environment for all members of our community, regardless of their background or identities."

For Wang, the move to Muhlenberg involved a bit of uprooting on her journey to Allentown but she has begun to replant those roots on Muhlenberg's Campus. "I have felt welcomed with open arms by the Muhlenberg community and for that I am extremely grateful."

This Week in Muhlenberg History:

“Godmother of Title IX” visits campus

By Laura Schwarz
Contributing Writer



Sex discrimination cases cited in lecture by Sandler

by Sue Farber and
Bob Goodman

Bernice Sandler Tuesday's Convocations speaker.

The Muhlenberg Convocations series opened Tuesday with the Science Lecture Hall appearance of Dr. Bernice Sandler. Dr. Sandler spoke on sexual discrimnation in education and labor.

Under the title “Yes, Virginia, there really is discrimination, or why it hurts to be a woman in labor,” Dr. Sandler cited an impressive array of statistics illustrating her point that women really do face discrimination. For instance, the only countries with a lower percentage of female physicians than the United States are Vietnam, Spain, and Madagasgar. Also, in many instances, women with bachelor's degrees are earning less than men who are high school dropouts.

According to Dr. Sandler, women in education are not seen to be as serious students as men are. Proportions of women in higher education are on the rise, but they still lag behind the 1930's. For instance, 13% of all doctorates today are held by women, while 28% were held in the 1930's.

Dr. Sandler drew an analogy between the problems of racial discrimination and sexual discrimination. She pointed out how black men were often referred to as “boys” while women suffer the same consequence being referred to as “girls.”

The next part of her talk centered on the untrue myths about women. These included most women don't work, and those who do so do it for pin money. Also

Above, a former Muhlenberg student reported on Sandler’s 1976 visit to the College’s “Science Lecture Hall.” Image courtesy of Trexler Library Archives.

Almost 43 years ago this week, Dr. Bernice Sandler, an early activist for women’s rights in education and labor, arrived at Muhlenberg to give a lecture on the breadth and reality of sexual discrimination. Dr. Sandler has been an important voice in women’s rights and safety on campuses for decades and was crowned “the godmother of Title IX” by the *New York Times* for her work in pushing for the revolutionary legislation.

Title IX, passed in 1972, is a federal law that, according to the United States Department of Justice, “prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any federally funded education program or activity.” Today, Title IX is a central part of the discussion about sexual discrimination and assault on college campuses. It is frequently brought into question in cases of sexual assault involving college athletes, like the heavily publicized court case surrounding Brock Turner, a Stanford University student athlete who received a very light sentence for the sexual assault of an unconscious woman.

When Dr. Sandler arrived at Muhlenberg to speak in 1975, Title IX had only been in effect for three years. Some of the stereotypes she cited, such as the belief that women do not want to work or that they are less serious students than men, may seem a little dated today; however, other issues she mentioned, like the pay gap between men and women, are still plaguing many Americans.

In 1970, Dr. Sandler, who had experienced her own share of discrimination while working as a professor, filed a class action complaint with the U.S. Department of Labor against all colleges and universities participating in discrimination based on sex. This revolutionary act sparked a movement that would ultimately lead to the passing of Title IX in 1972.

Dr. Sandler’s influential books like “Sexual Harassment on Campus: A Guide for Administrators, Faculty, and Students” (1997) and “Campus Gang Rape: Party Games?” (1985) cover issues that have become increasingly pressing on campuses across the country, including at Muhlenberg.

Just weeks ago, incoming Muhlenberg freshmen were required to not only complete an online course about sexual assault and harassment, but, during orientation, were also required to attend a program where the topic was illustrated through improvisational acting. Both programs mentioned Title IX and sought to educate students about their rights on campus in regards to maintaining the safety and wellbeing of themselves and their classmates.

Despite the administration’s well-meaning in providing the necessary programs, many students took issue with the improv performance, finding the actors’ use of comedy to be inappropriate for such a serious topic, that for some, hits very close to home.

One student commented that “the production was very unprofessional” and that “the actors did not know how to address the audience respectfully.”

Another student took issue with the actors’ lack of proper representation in the material saying, “[the program] was super heteronormative. All of the scenarios featured the guy as the predator, and they pretty much glossed over what little they had to say about LGBT folks and any experiences they could have when engaging in sexual activity.”

Finding an effective way to educate students about sexual assault on campus seems to be a difficult task; however, it appears that Muhlenberg’s administration is yet to find a program that is both engaging and convincing.

In today’s political and social climate that extends beyond Muhlenberg’s campus, movements like #Me Too put even more pressure on American institutions to focus their attention on issues of gender equality and sexual harassment.

Now, at 90 years old, Dr. Sandler is still active and continues to instruct colleges and other institutions in ways to eliminate gender discrimination and sexual harassment from the classroom and the workplace. Her pertinent lecture at Muhlenberg in 1975 exemplifies the progress made by generations of women who fought for equal treatment in all aspects of life. Her work demonstrates how far our society has come since the passing of Title IX, and moreover, how much farther we still have left to go.

FROM **CAFE** PAGE 1

Despite its short stay, Cafe Frais had an impact on some Muhlenberg students. Jen Cote ’19, explained how she would go every Sunday and sometimes two to three times a week. Cote spoke highly of their breakfasts and coffee and despite being surprised at its sudden closing, she understood how it happened with their high prices and long waits. The word on campus seems to be that Café Frais was just too expensive. Jordan Zanetti ’19 thought the prices just couldn’t compete with the easy access to meal plan options here on campus.

There is no information regarding the sale of the building, which also features a storage unit facility. The owner of CaféFrais, Jason Lund, also owned the storage center. It is unknown if the storage units are still available for rent.

Lund is a businessman from New York City who had big visions that never seemed to take off. He wanted to work with the Muhlenberg community to offer jobs to students. In a Weekly article regarding the cafe’s opening he discussed offering a delivery service which never ended up happening. Cafe Frais was also part of the iHeart Muhlenberg program where local businesses offer discounts to Muhlenberg students with a ‘Berg ID.

Most surveyed students seemed to be surprised about the closing but they understand how Café Frais has come to a close. Greg Shanahan ’21 said that he’s disappointed that another small business is closing, but again it comes down to price.

Whether or not Café Frais will be missed is difficult to say, but for many it’s passing could easily go unnoticed. Whether they just never went, like Zanetti and Shanahan or because they never knew it existed, like Aileen Bergin ‘22.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY
Seeking new writers, photographers, and editors. No experience required!
Visit our office located in the basement of Seegers Union.
Questions? Contact weeklyeditor@gmail.com.

"My imagination can picture no fairer happiness than to continue to living for art."

- Clara Schumann

The cast of the 2017 Sedhi Diversity Project mid-performance. From left to right: John Smith '19, Bree Ogaldez '18, director Bree Booth '19, Melina Economos '19, Asher Gill '20, Drew Maidment '18, Sarah Jae Leiber '19, project manager Mikawela Esposito '19 and Julie Weiner '20.

Photo courtesy of Muhlenberg Public Relations

New evolutions of Sedehi Diversity Project

By Ellen Powers
Staff Writer

Since its conception in 2006, the Sedehi Diversity Project (SDP) has provided the Muhlenberg community, in particular the incoming freshman class, with a look into the perspectives of interviewed students, staff and other faculty and Muhlenberg community members. The documentary play, performed over orientation weekend, puts a particular focus onto underrepresented members of the community and their ideas. During the five-week process of creating the play for that year, the student director and ensemble members work to decide which main ideas they want to present through the performance, based almost entirely on the information they received from the various community members that they interviewed, as well as incorporating a bit of their personal stories as well.

This year, the Sedehi Diversity Project was led by Melina Economos '19, who had previously been in the ensemble of SDP, but, as a senior, served as the student director for this year's production. Her role as student director included leading rehearsals, script-making, script-building and staging. Along with seven ensemble members and faculty advisor Troy Dwyer, they begin the process of creating the play in the spring and into the summer by interviewing Muhlenberg community members, transcribing these interviews and then going through them, picking out quotes and combining them to make the script.

Economos called the Sedehi Diversity Project a "really good challenge for me because not only are we representing who we are as a community, but we were also lucky enough to have the set from Tal, which was a really fun directing challenge … in the round, and we also got to keep the rainbow floor." This setting was new to this year; the Sedehi Diversity Project play had never been performed in the round before.

"The main goal for us was to say, 'here's the community that we have, here's the community that you're coming into, and here's what you can do with it."

Ensemble member Robyn Phan '21 explained how this element of the performance helped the cast members to be "constantly moving and making sure we connected with everyone who was there." The play tells personal stories, and the play being in the round created a personal environment for the audiences to hear these stories as well.

The rehearsal process for SDP is a long and tedious one. Economos explained that "a stipulation of the project is that it has to be 35 minutes long," but the first draft of the script was the length of "an 80-minute show." Once the show is cut down to a certain degree, the ensemble can begin staging in the Studio Theater. Economos explained that she and the ensemble members then have to "stage the piece while simultaneously cutting the show just so that it can reach 35 minutes." The challenge of this task is not only to make such significant cuts, but to also "represent everyone's stories in a fair way."

One particularly impressive element of the play is that, according to Economos, "Everything that is in the script in the final project is something that someone actually said during one of those interviews, and it's about finding a way to allow those different interview subjects and their voice to have a dialogue with each other without being present at everyone's interviews." It is in fact the content of the interviews that lead the director and ensemble members to decide what topics to focus on, not the other way around.

Phan explained, "Going into the interviews, we didn't really have any set questions that we wanted to ask, except for the leading one, which was 'What does diversity mean to you?' We just let the interviewees guide us along what they wanted to talk about and went with it." This process ensures that each year, the piece is unique, and every interviewee has a bit of their story being told.

Although the piece covers a variety of topics, one theme Economos personally hoped would shine through is activism at Muhlenberg. "The main goal for us was to say, 'here's the community that we have, here's the community that you're coming into, and here's what you can do with it.'" This message would convey the opportunities for such activism on campus, and Economos hopes that particularly the incoming freshman know that "they can do that here with us. You don't have to wait to do things. You can start doing it immediately."

"Everything that is in the script in the final project is something that someone actually said during one of those interviews."

The performances seem to have had the profound impact on audience members who got to see them that Economos was hoping for. Kaelyn Kappes '21 served as an Orientation Leader this year and was able to catch performances of this year's play. Although she had seen the play as a freshman, she still "had been looking forward to seeing the show, because it always presents a mix of topics that [she is] well aware of and topics that have never crossed [her] mind." The Diversity Project opens up room for dialogue where there might not have been previously, creating a rare atmosphere for incoming freshman and the rest of the Muhlenberg community as well. Through one part of the performance, the 'privilege walk,' Kappes explained that it really "puts into perspective how often we take our own privileges for granted and I always like watching the audience's reaction during this part because the final tableau of the 'race' is a powerful image to see."

Ultimately, The Sedehi Diversity Project, as Phan explained, helped her to realize that "there is so much more to Muhlenberg behind what they tell you on tours or what they show you on brochures, whether that be the pretty stuff or the ugly stuff," even in her freshman year.

To provide this information from the Muhlenberg community's perspective is a special opportunity that the college has had for the last 12 years, and the feedback that the Sedehi Diversity Project receives truly brings to light how crucial it is to the unique student experience of this school.

A warm welcome to our new, even warmer chaplain

By Ethan Forrer
Staff Writer

As the new school year comes back around, it brings more than just new classes and the Muhlen-plague - this semester, it will bring seven new additions to our religious life staff. This includes our new College Chaplain, Pastor Kristen Glass Perez. If you've seen the emails Glass Perez, or Chaplain Kristen as she welcomes you to call her, you should've already gotten the sense for the range of religious affiliations, as well as non-affiliations, she oversees and works with. "Muhlenberg supports the opportunity for everyone to explore their either religious or non-religious identity," Glass Perez told me. "We protect the space for people to engage with as much of their own religious background as they like to, or they don't have to." Glass Perez extends an offer to all Muhlenberg students to sit down with her and participate in her "one thousand cups of coffee" semester for anyone who wants a cup of coffee and a chat.

Glass Perez is joining us from Augustana College, a college very similar to Muhlenberg in both size and philosophy located in Rock Island, Illinois. Glass Perez plans to bring with her a close partnership with the career office by helping students explore who they are, what they like and what they're good at in order to make decisions about majors or jobs. "I did a lot of work with the career center [at Augustana College]," Glass Perez continues, "I did the traditional Chaplain things like lead worship services and meet with students, but I also did this other segment of helping people figure out who they are and how to connect that to their life goals, so I really enjoy that kind of work."

Along with helping students to find their path both during college and afterwards, Glass Perez is looking forward to further developing and diversifying religious representation on campus and encouraging more interfaith discussion and discourse. "There are some communities that we're hoping to expand," she says, "[for] folks that may not find things for themselves in the current community, like in the Buddhist and Hindu communities. I think that's a growing population of the college, so we're excited to partner on some things with those communities and students." Not stopping at increasing representation for the minority religious groups, Glass Perez will also be implementing more opportunities for interfaith interactions through embracing our differences and talking about them. "We are all a part of the Muhlenberg community," she starts, "but that doesn't mean that we're all the same, it means that we are delightedly and wonderfully different, so we get to talk about what is it that makes us us and then how do we come together about things that are important to the community, even things we might disagree on."

When it comes to dealing one-on-one with students, Glass Perez believes that everyone "brings something to the table," or has their own problems in life that you wouldn't know from first meeting them. She herself has experienced a tragedy last year that she says has changed her way of engaging with others. "You never know what has happened in people's lives," she explains solemnly, "many students have shared things with me such as the loss of a sibling or parent, so I'm really conscious now to the fact that we don't always see what everybody brings with them, but I also want to talk about it openly because I think we don't have a lot of space to get to do that."

At the end of the day, the most important part of her job as a Chaplain is the interactions with students and the daily ordeals they must push through. "I love … the time I get to spend in both conversation and programming with college students; I think it's a really unique time," she starts to explain. "What I don't believe is when people say, 'this is the best time of your life.' I think yes, it's a good time in your life but there also real struggles, right? I like to say, 'the struggle is real.'"

It is for all these reasons that Pastor Kristen wants to encourage you to come by her office in Enger Chapel, grab a cup of coffee and talk about anything from favorite Netflix shows, who GQ is named after, the phenomenon that is Wegmans or how lucky we are to be close to both mountains and the coast.

Chaplain Kristen Glass Perez will be having her official installation ceremony on Oct. 28 at 1:30 p.m., followed by some free food. She hopes to see many of you there to commemorate the ceremony.

Shifts of self: a preview of *Machinal*

By Brooke Weber
Arts & Culture Editor

Four employees sit behind desks made of stacked boxes, the ancient phones and typewriters balanced atop them proudly chanting the mechanical music of an early-century business day. A fifth workstation, situated between the other four, sits empty. In quick succession, the present employees reel off statistics, answer calls from sometimes-lovers, shift through paperwork and transcribe memos, all the while chattering amongst themselves. One-liners, office demands, shameless flirting – and always, always, some invisible *her*. She's late. Inefficient. Got something to do with the boss, something big, something questionable.

When she finally arrives, though, the Young Woman just sits down at her black-box desk, her typewriter the singular static object in an environment buzzing with urgency. As she haltingly attempts to account for her tardiness, explaining that she just had to get out of the subway, that there were too many "bodies pressing," a sound like thunder in the distance rises in tandem with her body. She stands begging, trying to justify herself until the rumbling reaches a fever pitch, then – silence.

"Take a taxi!" one of the workers shouts. The others laugh, and the Young Woman allows herself a wavering smile as she sinks back into her chair, panic momentarily contained.

This is *Machinal* (pronounced either *MAH-key-nahl* or *MAH-shee-nahl*), Muhlenberg's first mainstage of the 2018/2019 season. Written in 1928 by reporter, playwright and feminist Sophie Treadwell and directed by Baker Artist-In-Residence Lou Jacob, *Machinal* will run in Baker Theatre from Sept. 27 to 30. Due to its early placement in the school year, the play was cast in the spring and has been in rehearsals since several weeks before classes began. Julia Baker '19, who brings to life the Young Woman, describes the rehearsal process as challenging, but worthwhile.

"*Machinal* … tells the true and still relevant story of how a woman maneuvers and succumbs to societal pressures put upon her to be the perfect, stereotypical wife, mother and woman… The play is written into nine vignettes, so a typical rehearsal consists, at least right now, of running vignettes 1-5, or 6-9," said Baker. "It′s exciting to have vignettes that vary in time span and cast from one to the next, so it feels as though the world is evolving and acting around Young Woman, yet somehow not with her in it. Rehearsals are actually unbelievably collaborative, in which Lou will ask those watching whether or not particular moments looked good, and Lou really listens. He′s always up for discussions and allows impulses to become blocking. I feel as though Lou truly listens and wants to make these moments as personal for us as possible, which is a really nice, refreshing thing."

Director Lou Jacob is a member of the Tony Awards Nominating Committee, recipient of the Princess Grace Statute Award and director of many productions, including several off-Broadway and touring credits. During a break in rehearsal, he discusses with a stage manager the prospect of visiting playwright Sophie Treadwell's time in history. When the stage manager balks, Jacob is incredulous: "Oh, it would be so cool!" he exclaims. "It's my fantasy to go back there to find out what it was like."

Jacob's driving passion for the subject matter becomes immediately tangible as the world of the play is acted into reality. Robert Stinner '20, who plays Man 4, states that Jacob's unique stamp on the piece is what truly makes it a must-see.

"This is the first Mainstage production I'm acting in, and working with Lou has made it a rewarding and memorable experience," Stinner said. "He's incredibly committed to honoring Sophie Treadwell's text, while also forming an exciting and disturbing production which will resonate with contemporary audiences. He's also helped a lot in maintaining a supportive and fun rehearsal environment, which is important when working on material as dark as *Machinal*."

This conclusion is echoed by Sylvia Fisher '21, who plays Woman 6 in the production.

"Lou is really great about asking us questions leading us to our own conclusions and choices," said Fisher. "Since the subject material is so heavy, it is very taxing staying in character for a long time so often we will debrief and just take a moment to talk about how we as individuals feel about our characters and their experiences."

These experiences range from workplace shenanigans to mother-daughter conflict to sexual assault, and that's only within the first three vignettes – the play as a whole travels to some bleak places, both literally and figuratively, within the life of the Young Woman.

"Personally, I really love Young Woman, because she ages six years within the span of the play. In these six years, Young Woman undergoes constant shifts of self, in which she knows that the life she has differs horribly from the life she wants," said Baker. "She is always seeking something, looking for a shred of hope and trying to take on the responsibility of this woman′s life is just plain hard. I struggle an awful lot, but I really enjoy the struggle of trying to understand a multi-faceted woman, endlessly trying to find peace within a world that endlessly forces her to submit."

Baker's character speaks either in short, timid sentences or a vortex of repeating thoughts, stream-of-consciousness style. Even when everything around her moves slowly, her words sometimes seem to travel at the speed of light, tripping over themselves and scrambling back around to some semblance of a beginning, connecting but breaking apart just short of sense. It's hard to watch, but impossible to look away from: the Young Woman's interactions with her fellow employees, her mother and her male boss all teeter on the edge of violence, and Baker's mastery of this fraught character is impressive to behold. The Young Woman is constantly prompted to obey, prompted to speak when told, prompted to perform tasks she can't bear the thought of. Her pain is etched plain on her face, and we, the audience, must bear witness to this harsh constructed reality – and its harsh consequences.

"The circumstances of the play still ring true now, which I think pushes the idea that despite the advances of women as equals, the uphill climb is still steep, but worth the trek," Baker said. "Perhaps by shining light on this discrepancy, we can move ever closer to raising the definition of what it is to be a woman, to be feminine and to be free."

Don't miss your chance to see *Machinal* on Sept. 27 to 30. Be aware that this production is for mature audiences.

Muhlenberg College
Theatre & Dance

2018-2019 Mainstage Season

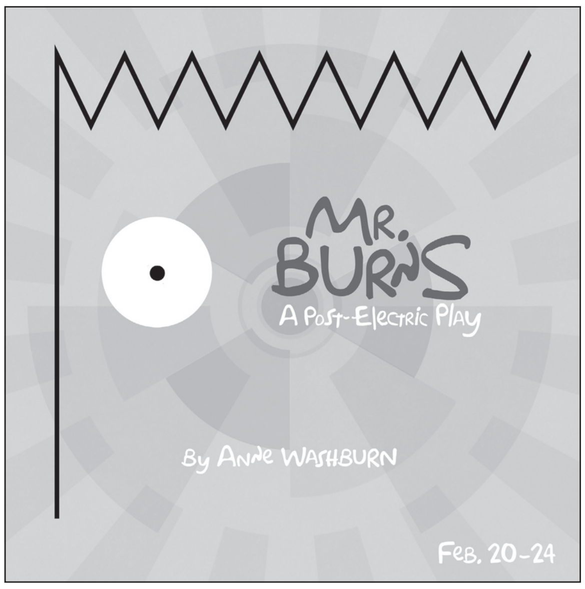
MACHINAL
BY SOPHIE TREADWELL
sept. 27-30

Lerner and Loewe's
Brigadoon
Oct. 26 – Nov. 4

MOVING STORIES
NOV 8-10 2018

NEW VOICES | NEW VISIONS
THE REPAIR MAN
STILL GROWING UP
AM I BLUE
a festival of original & student-directed plays
nov 28 – dec 2

MASTER CHOREOGRAPHERS
2019
FEB 7-9


Mr. Burns
A Post-Electric Play
By Anne Washburn
Feb. 20-24

OF WAR
MARCH 28-31

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THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY/OPINIONS&EDITORIALS

The violence of silence

This summer saw yet another busy newscycle, with top stories ranging on topics from the World Cup to Paul Manafort’s trial, from the royal wedding to immigrant children separated from their parents, from the Catholic Church scandal to the upcoming high-tension midterm election.

Then there was one day that the flutter of the newsroom fell silent.

Three months ago on June 28, The Capital, a Maryland-based newspaper office was attacked by a gunman. The perpetrator was a man who appeared in The Capitol as a convict charged with harassment. The man attempted to sue the paper for defamation, but his case was dismissed. Instead, he took matters - and weapons - into the office, shooting several members of the staff.

The next day The Capital published a blank page as their editorial, saying they’d been struck silent.

This is the world we’re growing up in as student journalists and media makers; a world that doesn’t trust those trained to be the most efficient at communicating, researching, cross-referencing and ultimately bringing as objective a piece of news to your doorstep in as quick a time as possible. A world that looks as words equal to weapons, and responds to another’s silence with violence.

So where do we fall? The Weekly can serve as a function of discussion, its pages a place to agree or disagree, but more importantly make others aware of opinions that affect the community we all share. Responding is important, especially when you have something worthy to contribute in which we all often do.

As liberal arts students at Muhlenberg, we are taught to consider both sides of an argument. We are taught to ask the tough questions, fact check our answers and then fact check them again. Perhaps now is a time to gather what we have learned about the media, how it is produced, put together and distributed to make sure there is a public forum dedicated to broadcasting the voices of the College. At times where opinions and views clash appreciate that you may be able to take away a better understanding of a diverse topic, something that can never hurt.

Beginning this semester under new leadership, the Muhlenberg Weekly’s goal is the same as it is has always been: to provide a platform for student voices to discuss student interests and issues; to bring a Muhlenberg perspective to world news, and bring you news that fits the ‘Berg community.

One thing has changed, though: our goal is also to be a hub of information, rather than a sole purveyor of “truth” in a time where even facts are conditional.

We want to hear from our readers, as contributors or letters to the Editor.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

How to run for mayor and freaking kill it

By Will Wamser
Op/Ed Editor

What up boils and ghouls!!! That’s right, it’s me! The rude, crude and blude Muhlen-babe of Muhlenberg, and I am back at it again, ready to give all you boils and ghouls out there some much needed advice. I am the prince of Muhlenberg, the mayor of Allentown and the tallest dude on this campus (and oh yeah, I’m hot) so I think you’ll want to read on.

This is going to be some of the best advice given by one of the best guys. You must be asking yourself, what makes this advice good? Well, thank you for the question, but please don’t interrupt, it’s very rude. I would answer the question, but you see patience is a virtue. Good things come to those who wait, so get waiting buddy. But just to be clear, that wasn’t the advice, you think I would give you some podunk advice like that? Wow, you guys really are boils and ghouls. No no, my advice is grander than that. It’s will be some of the grandest advice you’ve ever heard. The best part? I’m not even joking.

But this advice does come with a cost, you are no longer allowed to take other advice, especially if it comes from this pamphlet or anything Muhlenberg Weekly related. You think the other bozos writing these articles are as hot as me? NO WAY!! I know these people and they have nothing to offer. Let’s be honest here, they all had a lot to offer in their younger and more vulnerable years, but I took it from them and now I’m offering it.

Honestly, don’t read. Blind yourself like your hero Oedipus and cast yourselves from your families. Become a hermit like your other hero, Hermit the Frog. Once you read what I’ve got to offer, you’ll go bananas with all the power you’ll gain and all the ways you’ll abuse said power. You shall be a god among peanuts or, if you’d prefer, a peanut among gods. I’m going to teach you how to control your destiny and live life the way I do, fast, angry, alone, powerful, mean, hungry and with intent.

But enough about me, let’s talk about you and the great advice I’ll be giving you. The advice basically comes down to this, an apple a day keeps the doctors away. BOOM! Might as well call me Kobe because that was some prime beef and it was a slam dunk. You think I got to where I am now by seeing doctors? Heck no! The only doctor I want to see is Doctor Worm. Doctors will bleed the life blood from you one drop at a time and the only things keeping them at bay are apples. That’s all the advice I have and all the advice you need, so goodbye.

Oh, and you’re welcome.

“Eighth Grade” offers fresh perspective on social anxiety

By MacKenzie Richards
Contributing Writer

It′s no secret that the film industry is desperately in need of films that treat mental illnesses with the respect and nuance they deserve. While not billed as a ‘film about mental illness,’ “Eighth Grade” is the coming-of-age film that addresses what is often a huge part of growing up (and beyond) for many of us -- social anxiety.

“Eighth Grade,” written and directed by comedian Bo Burnham, focuses on the last few days of 13-year-old Kayla′s titular year in middle school as she gears up to go to high school. Kayla is a loner in the true sense of the word – she has no ragtag group of nerds who sit with her at lunch – and the film centers on her struggle to break out of her shell during such a tumultuous time in her life.

The best part of the film’s treatment of social anxiety is that it is essentially an anti-revelation narrative. Many narratives involving mental illness, or even personal growth in general, climax with a ‘revelation’ that irrevocably affects a person′s life – the revelation changes who they are completely and they move on from whatever struggle they were going through. “Eighth Grade,” thankfully, does not treat its protagonist in this way. For every step forward Kayla makes, she embarasses herself or does what in her eyes is ‘messing up.’ This may sound like a drawback at first, but I can say from experience that anxiety can′t just be solved by telling yourself you have no reason to be anxious, or that people shouldn′t make you nervous. Kayla experiences the gradual growth, ups and downs and moments of genuine human connection that any person with anxiety can recognize as being true-to-life.

Furthermore, Burnham′s way of contextualizing Kayla′s ‘embarrassing’ behaviors in the scope of every person around her is majorly eye-opening. To her, her every awkward behavior or stutter is the end of the world, but the people around her either don′t notice or don′t care. Again, this could be seen as depressing, but to people who suffer from anxiety, seeing that not all eyes are on you all the time is freeing. That Kayla doesn′t seem to realize this herself actually benefits the film in that this can be a hard truth to accept, even when one has already understood it on an objective level.

Social media obviously plays a huge role in Kayla′s growth, and Burnham manages to integrate it into her anxiety problems throughout the film without ever seeming preachy. We see her gingerly try to navigate the unspoken ‘rules’ of Instagram, smile as she puts goofy filters on her usually solemn face and make YouTube videos where she gives others advice she sadly can′t seem to take herself. It′s uncommon to see a film that actually acknowledges that social media can have positive effects, and while Kayla′s self-conscious nature definitely reflects the stress social media can cause, Burnham also shows it as the useful tool it can be for someone who has trouble expressing themselves publicly. Kayla might nervously pace around her room when she calls a new friend, but she does it with a smile.

“Eighth Grade” will make you cringe, laugh and maybe even cry, but anyone who has ever felt like they wanted to crawl out of their skin can relate to Kayla′s struggles in middle school. Personally, “Eighth Grade” did for me what it has done for so many others – it made me feel like I wasn′t alone in my struggles.

GRAPHIC OPINIONS

A not so “purr-fect” wedding

By Melissa Reph
Staff Writer

This article contains spoilers for the events of Batman 50 (published July 4, 2018). Mostly because that’s what my opinion is on.

I must admit something, over the summer I pretty much gave up on reading comics. I dropped all the titles I normally follow and dove head first into other interests for the past couple months. Before there’s outrage about why someone who hasn’t been reading comics is writing about them allow me to explain myself.

Firstly, with comics I don’t avoid spoilers, it’s too much hassle and those spoilers often dictate whether I want to read that issue or not. Which was lucky for me because as comics are wont to do, DC decided to have a huge cross-title event this summer that I saved time and money by avoiding. The long-awaited Batman and Catwoman wedding.

You read that correctly, in early spring Batman proposed to Catwoman on a rooftop in Gotham with the wedding to be published in July. As a result just about every title that had a Gotham based character in it was to have a wedding special leading up to the big day. Like I said I tend to wait for reviews and spoilers before reading and that was certainly the right choice this time because the whole event was - to put it lightly - a hot mess.

Now I’m not naive enough to think that the wedding was actually going to happen, it would close off too many storylines that the writers seem too unimaginative to stop using, but I am annoyed with their reasoning for calling it off. Catwoman claimed that she couldn’t go through with it because it would make Batman happy and if he’s happy then he can no longer be Batman.

There is so much wrong with that statement I’m not even going to try to cover everything, just give it a google for about a hundred different hot takes if you’re curious, but I will give you one of the many things that bothers me about it.

As I mentioned above, this was a huge event with ten different titles relating to it featuring characters like Batgirl, Nightwing, Red Hood and even Harley Quinn. Fans went and bought these titles, excited for the wedding or at the very least to see what world ending event would interrupt it, only to be told that all of those other characters don’t matter because they don’t make Batman happy.

Nevermind a conversation between Batman and Nightwing regarding the best man position. Or that Batman has one blood son and at least two adopted sons as of the current timeline. Or the slew of friends and allies spread through Gotham City and the Justice League. It doesn’t matter because if any of those things brought even the slightest bit of happiness into his life he wouldn’t be Batman.

Then there’s the negative implications regarding mental health of “the Batman can’t be happy” statement that many more people with many more qualifications could fully explain. Or the implication that only people in a stable relationship can be happy. But I said that I wouldn’t go into those things.

Let me just bluntly state my point, thousands of fans dropped thousands of dollars on comic books that by the end of the event were completely invalidated just because DC’s writer’s can’t figure out a more creative way to stop a wedding in a world regularly invaded by aliens. With buffoonery such as this it’s easy to see why I gave up for a while there, although Gail Simone’s Catwoman/Tweety and Sylvester may have revived my interest.

Arbeit Macht Frei

Reflections on my visit to Dachau concentration camp

By Brooke Greenberg
Staff Writer

Arbeit Macht Frei. Work sets you free. That was on the metal gate entrance to the Dachau Concentration Camp in Dachau, Germany. The gate that separated the innocent outside world from the atrocities that occurred inside. I experienced first-hand the aftermath of those atrocities, the site we all must visit, to make sure the Holocaust does not happen again.

Getting off the bus at the Dachau Concentration Camp site was an experience that I have never had before. Everyone walked in a slow, controlled pace and voice volume was somber. The first stop on the camp tour was the museum portion; a place that was built by the prisoners to be used as a maintenance building. Inside was room after room of posters and artifacts that depicted the rise of the Nazi Party, the daily life of the prisoners, life at Dachau and everything a person would need to know about the horror of the place. Trying to picture myself as a teenage girl in that situation, the situation where every day, I would line up, stripped of my identity and treated as a prisoner for doing absolutely nothing and people would decide if I lived or died.

The roll call square was massive. Every day, multiple times a day, prisoners would have to be lined up to hear their fate for the day. The original barracks were destroyed after the war, but the ones that were rebuilt as a model were just as horrifying. Bunks on top of bunks made only of wood and in bunkers that housed hundreds of prisoners, when in theory they were not designed to have more than fifty. The toilets and sinks were in inhumane conditions with no privacy and with just a mere few to cover the hundreds of prisoners that lived in the barracks. Thinking of the incredibly inhumane conditions Jews, gypsies, homosexuals, Jehovah’s Witnesses and others amongst selected groups had to endure was mind boggling. In a place that seemed so empty, there was history and stories. Every single rock that was on the ground was a reminder of the suffering that occurred there. The dirt that made its way to the bottom of my black sneakers was the same dirt that people stood on when they had to fight for their lives.

> **“Trying to picture myself as a teenage girl in that situation, the situation where every day, I would line up, stripped of my identity and treated as a prisoner for doing absolutely nothing and people would decide if I lived or died.”**

Walking through the camp, I came up to the area where the barracks previously have been. I was disgusted at the magnitude of it. Each plot of land had been memorialized with a number, and for every number placed on the ground, it was representative of the thousands of prisoners resided in that location that never made it out those wrought-iron gates. Poplar trees lined the wide dirt road where the barracks were located. Those poplar trees were the only signs of life at the camp, a source of greenery where the sun would shine through in a place that was so desolate. The pictures and stories I had in my head were not even close to how brutal the prisoners were treated at Dachau. It was the “guinea pig” of concentration camps. The first ever camp built that would serve as a prototype for all of the other labor camps. How does one even feel, knowing they are in such a sacred memorial site for an event that was so tragic and took the lives of so so many innocent individuals.

Walking even further back in the camp, tucked strategically away in a corner was the crematorium. Gruesome and horrific could only begin to describe combination of all the emotions of seeing those brick ovens that murdered and cremated millions of innocent people. People who were murdered because of who they identified with were consequences in the cruelest form of humankind. People who stood next to me were in tears, I felt as if all my tears were stripped away. I felt nothingness. I felt so devoid of any emotion that it wasn’t until later that night that the anger hit me. What does it mean to be Jewish? What does it mean to visit a concentration camp? What does it mean to even walk on these sacred grounds? The only decent conclusion I have been able to come up with since my visit almost a month ago was that if Jews do not come to remember and memorialize the innocent people that were just following their hearts and their religion. Their spirits and stories deserve to be kept alive. Being Jewish, this experience meant more to me than any religion event I have ever participated in. It was a chance to experience first- hand what my ancestors before me faced because they did not live in a time where Judaism was so widely accepted.

> **“Each plot of land had been memorialized with a number, and for every number placed on the ground, it was representative of the thousands of prisoners resided in that location that never made it out those wrought-iron gates.”**

74 years after my ancestors faced the horrors that the Nazi’s placed on them (after Dachau was liberated in 1945), I was in the exact same place to bear witness to the events that happened before my generation. 74 years later, I walked out of those same gates, “Arbeit Macht Frei,” that so many of my ancestors never got the chance to do.

Down to the wire

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletic Department

Captain Stephi Rydgren '19 will be a leader for the Mules' offense in the 2018 season.

By Brandon Kossin
Staff Writer

The Muhlenberg Field Hockey program has had four games so far this season, and has been edged out by just one goal in three of those contests. All four matches have been out of conference games, so they have no bearing on playoff contentions.

Despite these defeats to Scranton, DeSales, Elizabethtown and Kings, this squad remains optimistic that they will pick up from where they left off last season when they tallied a five game winning streak late in the season.

Jordan Segrave '20 believes that this team's strong bond will be a reason the team can be successful. In addition to raw talent, the squad has a strong defensive line for such a young team.

The team has also stressed viewing the games played as learning experiences. "We have already learned a lot due to our competition in the first couple of games. It allows us to see how we stand up against strong teams. Our conference has some major competitors, so these first couple games have helped us to prepare for conference play."

The squad will open up Centennial Conference play on Saturday, Sept. 15, against Franklin & Marshall at Scotty Wood Stadium.

They hope to remediate the minor flaws exhibited in their first four games to begin conference play on the right note. "The majority of our games we have had complete domination. We just have to capitalize on our shooting opportunities more. Also we have been working on perfecting our corners and finishing on majority of them. There are stills a few things that need to click but we are progressing with each game we play," Segrave said.

This team believes in the talent they have, and can only improve going forward. If they can put all the pieces together, they will be a very serious threat going forward in the Centennial Conference.

Solid start earns regional ranking

By Max Shapiro
Sports Editor

After an up and down 2017 season full of close results that didn't quite break their way, the 2018 men's soccer team are off to a hot start, and have jumped out to a 3-0 start for the first time since 2014 after a 3-0 win at Centenary. The strong start has earned the team a spot on the United Soccer Coaches Mid Atlantic Regional rankings. The Mules hold the 6th spot on the acclaimed list.

Three different players scored goals against the Cyclones, including Matthew Athanas-Linden '20, the Mules' leading goal-scorer in 2017. Linden netted his first 2018 goal midway through the first half, heading in a cross from senior midfielder Kevin Irving '19. It was the seventh career goal for Athanas-Linden, while Irving has recorded a point in all three games this season.

Mark Winter '21 made it 2-0 late in the first half with his second goal of the season, drawing the goalie out and finishing into an open net.

The final goal came off a set piece early in the second half, with Irving sending the free kick into the box. Stephen Carton '22 headed the ball to Josh Bordwick '22, who buried the shot for his first career goal. On the back end, the Mules defense has continued to be rock solid, allowing just one shot on goal against Centenary, with goalies Jordan Schreer '19 and Lance Lysiak '21 combining for the team's second consecutive clean sheet.

Three days prior, against Immaculata, the squad dominated from start to finish, scoring a goal in each half for a 2-0 win. The back line was again sublime,allowing only three shots, none on goal, while the Mules attack took 25 of their own. The defense also did not concede a corner kick. Right-back Jordan Cimring '20 helped Muhlenberg get on the board by drawing a foul in the box in the 28th minute. Irving converted the ensuing penalty for his seventh career goal.

The Mules only real test so far came in their season opener against Susquehanna. After the River Hawks opened the scoring in the 28th minute, Winter brought the squad level in the 39th. The game remained deadlocked until the final moments, when Christian Puccio '22 tracked down a ball at the end line and worked it up to Carton, who sent a cross in for Kevin Hagan '20 to convert the 89th minute stunner. The win seems to have provided momentum for the team in their two games since.

Before their official schedule began, the team had the opportunity to taking an 11-day trip to Italy, and playing several exhibition games there. After getting a tour of the facilities of European pro club, AC Milan, the team went 3-0 in exhibitions against various academy teams. "Italy was indescribable. Being abroad with my best friends and competing against Italians was very special. Sightseeing and winning all three games with the team was unreal and I think it has made us a closer unit," Cimring said of the trip.

The Mules will then open up Centennial Conference play on Sept. 15 against Franklin and Marshall. "The hard work that the team has put in over the spring season and summer has led to our early success. We hope to keep our energy and positivity high as we move towards Centennial Conference play," center-back Teddy Kawoczka '20 said.

FROM **VOLLEYBALL** PAGE 12

to start the season." Schultz has started seven of the Mules nine matches and tallied nine kills combined between the two Stevenson matches.

Susquehanna and Christopher Newport were the other programs who received national recognition but were toppled by the Mules. Maggie Enestvedt '20, an outside hitter who is second on the team in kills (89) attributes the Mules ability to control games to their success. "We've been working really hard to start games out strong and then control them by playing at our pace."

Schultz also explained how she enjoys playing on a team with so much positional depth. "We have excellent defenders, great setters and strong hitters. It's hard to shut us down because we have a diverse, fast offense," she said. She went on to add how important a well-rounded team is. "The success of our offense is also reliant on our defense as they do such a great job reading the other team and picking up balls."

Schult's coach was in total agreement, explaining an underlying strategy to playing weekend tournaments. "Having depth in our roster allows us the opportunity to rest players from set to set," Krampf said. She continued, "Recovery is definitely key in weekends where we play so many matches in a short period of time."

> **"They push each other every day to get better and are so supportive of each other. They are a truly inspirational group of young women."**

Muhlenberg also benefits from the return of every single player on the 2017 roster. The Mules did not have any seniors on last years roster which forced underclassmen to step up and be leaders in 2017. Enestvedt, Kelly Tornetta '19 and Shannon Hubert '19 were the captains of the 2017 team and finished the season with mantles full of awards. In 2017 Hubert and Enestvedt were awarded second team All-Centennial Conference, while Tornetta was a third team All-American.

The trio has picked up right where they left off. Hubert has 340 kills and 112 digs making her the only player in Muhlenberg program history with over 1,000 digs and assists. Tornetta is the team leader in kills with 106 and Enestvedt is right behind her.

Others have stepped up as well to become impact players too. Laura Boll '20 is third on the team in kills with 83 and is a force in the serving box accumulating 21 aces in the squads nine contests. Maya Illovsky '21 is the teams starting libero and has 170 digs so far, 58 more than the next closest player.

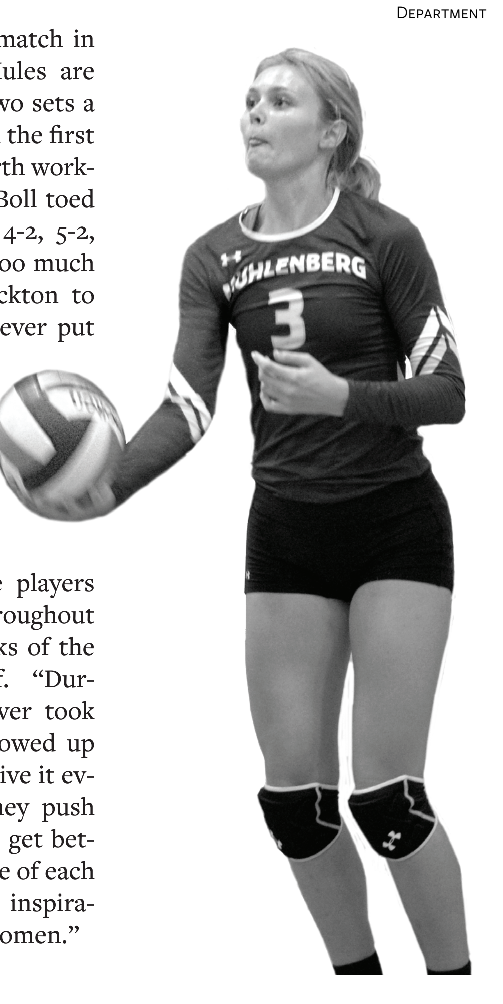
Coach Krampf has also attributed her squads solid start to resiliency. "We had two five set matches that were extremely close in score. Never did we lose our fight or drive during those matches."

Back to the Sept. 8 match in Memorial Hall: The Mules are tied with Stockton at two sets a piece. The teams traded the first four points back and forth working to an early 2-2 tie. Boll toed the line to serve. 3-2, 4-2, 5-2, 6-2, 7-2. The rally was too much for the Osprey of Stockton to handle as they could never put together a valid attempt to get back into the match. The Mules walked off of the Sport Court victorious, winning 15-8.

"Honestly all of the players have impressed me throughout the first couple of weeks of the season," said Krampf. "During preseason they never took a practice off. They showed up every session ready to give it everything they have. They push each other every day to get better and are so supportive of each other. They are a truly inspirational group of young women."

Laura Boll '20 prepares to serve at the Captain's Classic.

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletic Department



Shutout City: Women's Soccer allows just two goals in first four matches

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletic Department

By Noah Sellinger
Contributing Writer

After finishing last season with a record of 5-8-4, the women's soccer team and new coach Kelly Wakemen have started the 2018 season on a roll. So far the women have raced out to a 2-1-1 record through their first four contests.

After grinding out a scoreless tie in their opener against Susquehanna the Mules got their first win of the season in the form of a 1-0 finish over Gwynedd Mercy. After 46 scoreless minutes, the first goal of the season was scored by junior Karolyn Kawa '20 who ripped a shot from the right side of the 18-yard box to lift the Mules over Gwynedd Mercy.

Following their first win the Mules dominated Delaware Valley by a score of 5-0. The Mules controlled the game with 20 shots compared to Delaware Valley's three. After starting out strong with two goals in the first half from sophomore Mia Mulin '21, they finished the game even stronger, scoring three goals, two of which by Isabel Schwartz '21, to put the game out of reach. Mulin and Schwartz became the first pair of Muhlenberg players to score two goals in the same game since 2009.

After their solid start to the year, the team suffered their first loss against Arcadia. Arcadia's disciplined defense limited the Mules to only three shots in the game. Despite staying with Arcadia for the majority of the game Arcadia distanced themselves with a second goal in the 87th minute to put the game all but out of reach.

The Mules will look to bounce back on Sept. 12 at home against Moravian. Once Centennial Conference play begins, Coach Wakeman will also get her first look at her alma mater Ursinus, a school she also previously coached for, on Oct. 10 at Ursinus.

Pressure in the pocket

Mules pass rushers sack Dickinson six times in season opener

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletic Department

Max Kirin '20 is met by running back Nick DeLucas '20 after receiving a 38 yard touchdown pass from Michael Hnatkowski '21.

By Alex Horowitz
Senior Staff Writer

It was a memorable afternoon at Scotty Wood Stadium on the first football Saturday in Allentown, PA.

Led by sophomores Michael Hnatkowsky and James Diggs, the Mules won against conference rival Dickinson by a narrow score of 14-3. While the team had a successful day on both sides of the ball, it was the defense that was especially a bright spot, allowing a lone field goal as the Red Devil's only points of the contest.

The starting quarterback, Michael Hnatkowsky, completed 15 passes on 32 attempts, for 199 yards in the air. He was happy with how the team played in this game and is excited for what this season holds.

"Our defense played really well on Saturday and kept us in the game. On offense we came out slow but as the game went on we started to get into a good rhythm. Our goals for this year is to win the conference," began Hnatkowsky.

"As for our offense we are looking forward to get into a rhythm and start to play mules offense. This means we are balanced and we are willing to do what we want whether it's running or passing the ball," Hnatkowsky continued.

Max Kirin '20 scored The Mules first touchdown of the season when he reeled in a 38 yard pass at the end of the first half. Mark Riggio '20 who ran the ball 14 times for 51 yards broke into the endzone as well.

The team leader in rushing yards in the game was James Diggs '21. Despite his stellar performance in the game, he emphasized that his number one priority for the football season is team wins and that takes precedence over any individual accolades.

"Our goals are simple and will always remain the same. We want to win. No matter what it takes, no matter how we get it, no matter when it comes. We just want to win every single football game that we play and if we perform to our capabilities we can do just that," said Diggs.

"We have so many talented guys on our team that we constantly compete each and every day which makes us all better, so my own successes are really a product of the work my teammates and myself put in. Without them, I definitely wouldn't be half the player that I am now," he continued.

Diggs has a team-first mentality, which will be instrumental for the Mules moving forward over the course of this season. As for this past Saturday's game itself, Diggs was proud of his teammates for rallying together and putting across just enough points to come out with the eventual victory.

"The thing that I was most proud of was the way we rallied in the second half and overcame a lackluster first half," he said. "Especially offensively. We weren't firing on all cylinders in the first two quarters, but we were able to make some halftime adjustments and go out in the second half and execute, so I was very pleased with the way we played in the second half."

Next week takes The Mules to Selinsgrove, PA. for a matchup with a Susquehanna team that just defeated highly-favored Johns Hopkins. Although a tough contest awaits, The Mules are happy to have started off the season with a win, one that occurred under their new head coach.

"I feel like the win was essential in boosting out moral as a team," said Diggs. "With Coach Milne starting of the season as the head coach for the first time it felt like it was our obligation to win. Plus it's always better to start your season off with a win, so I felt it was a must-win game for us."

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Silent but deadly: Hnatkowski connects with Kirin for one of Mules' two touchdowns

READ MORE ON 11

PHOTO COURTESY OF MUHLENBERG ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Volleyball digging deep:

Experience helps team bump tough opponents out of the way in early-season tournaments

BY MATT RIEBESELL
MANAGING EDITOR

The Mules took the court for a decisive fifth set on Saturday Sept. 8. This would be the last of 14 sets the team would fight through during the 2018 Buttermaker Tournament, a five team battle which commenced just an afternoon before. If the fatigue of four matches within 23 hours were to kick in during the upcoming set against Stockton the Mules would be handed their first defeat of the Buttermaker, annually hosted by Memorial Hall since the late 1990's.

The Mules entered the Stockton match with a sparkling 7-1 record so a potential 7-2 clip after a jam-packed weekend of matches would be nothing to scoff at. In fact, The Mules were in a similar scenario a week prior to the Buttermaker. Muhlenberg's first four matches of the 2018 campaign were part of the Captain's Classic hosted by Christopher Newport, a program ranked 23rd in the nation by the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) Division III preseason poll.

The Mules one loss on the season came in the fourth match of the Captain's Classic after the University of Mary Washington captured a decisive fifth set, 15-13.

Muhlenberg's Volleyball squad had reason to have a chip on their collective shoulder entering the season. They did not receive any votes in the AVCA poll even after finishing 2017 with a 24-6 record. "We felt we deserved to be recognized nationally, so we've been working hard to be the best team we can be and beat strong teams," said Erica Schultz '19, a middle hitter for the Mules.

Out of Berg's nine matches, four have been against teams who were either ranked or receiving votes in the AVCA poll that left Muhlenberg out. The Mules record in those four matches: 4-0. Their margin of victory has been steep too, 12 sets to three.

The AVCA took notice of the notable wins by awarding the Mules 60 votes in the latest poll which was released on Sept. 4. Still not enough to qualify for the top 25, but paving the path to landing on the acclaimed list has begun.

"I think the most fun part is getting to play a lot of good volleyball with very different teams. I love game days in general and to get to play four teams back to back over two days is really fun," said Schultz, regarding the exciting buzz around the tournament weekends.

There is also a benefit to playing the tough competition at such events as first year Head Coach Amanda Krampf explained. "It is these challenging matches that prepare us for the conference tournament," she said. "(Tournaments) allows us the potential to play opponents we might not normally see because teams are more willing to travel for tournaments opposed to single matches."

Stevenson was an example of a nationally recognized program which The Mules faced this season, but have struggled against in years past. "Personally, one of my goals of the season was to beat Stevenson, having lost to them in the last two years," said Schultz. The 2018 Mules wrote a different story, "To not only beat them once, but twice [once in Captain's Classic and once in the Buttermaker] was such an exciting feeling and a great way

SEE **VOLLEYBALL** PAGE 10

PHOTO COURTESY OF MUHLENBERG ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Alycia Long '20 is set up for the kill in one of the Mules 8 wins in 2018.

Coming up this week in SPORTS

Weekend Special

Softball

MUHLENBERG
VS
FRANKLIN & MARSHALL

Friday, Sept. 14 @ 5 pm
Memorial Hall

Football

MUHLENBERG
VS
SUSQUEHANNA

Saturday, Sept. 15 @ 1 pm
Selinsgrove, PA

Field Hockey

MUHLENBERG
VS
FRANKLIN & MARSHALL

Saturday, Sept. 15 @ 1 pm
Scotty Wood Stadium

Women's Soccer

MUHLENBERG
VS
FRANKLIN & MARSHALL

Saturday, Sept. 15 @ 4 pm
Varsity Field

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Read inside:
The West End World of Food Festival comes to town
more on page 7

Cactus Blue
Tacos
Nachos

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2018
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NEWS

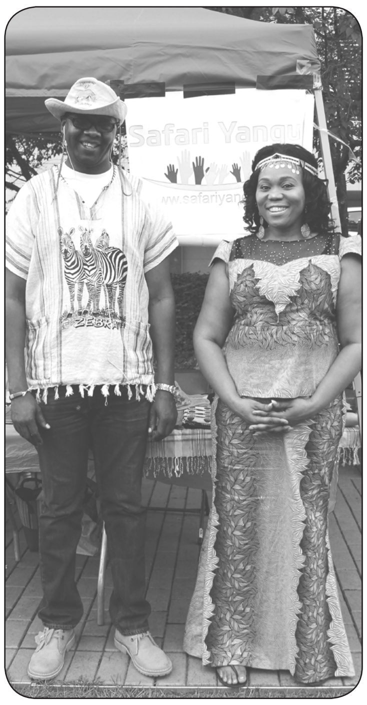
Director of Student Engagement Jan Schumacher discusses this year's shift to a more in-depth transfer student orientation.

read more on 3

ARTS & CULTURE

The first annual International Cultural Festival transformed the Arts Park into a lively celebration by and for the community.

read more on 5



Marie Pillsbury / The Muhlenberg Weekly

OP/ED

Chloe Gravereaux reflects on her first production night as the Weekly's Editor-in-Chief, focusing on what it taught her.

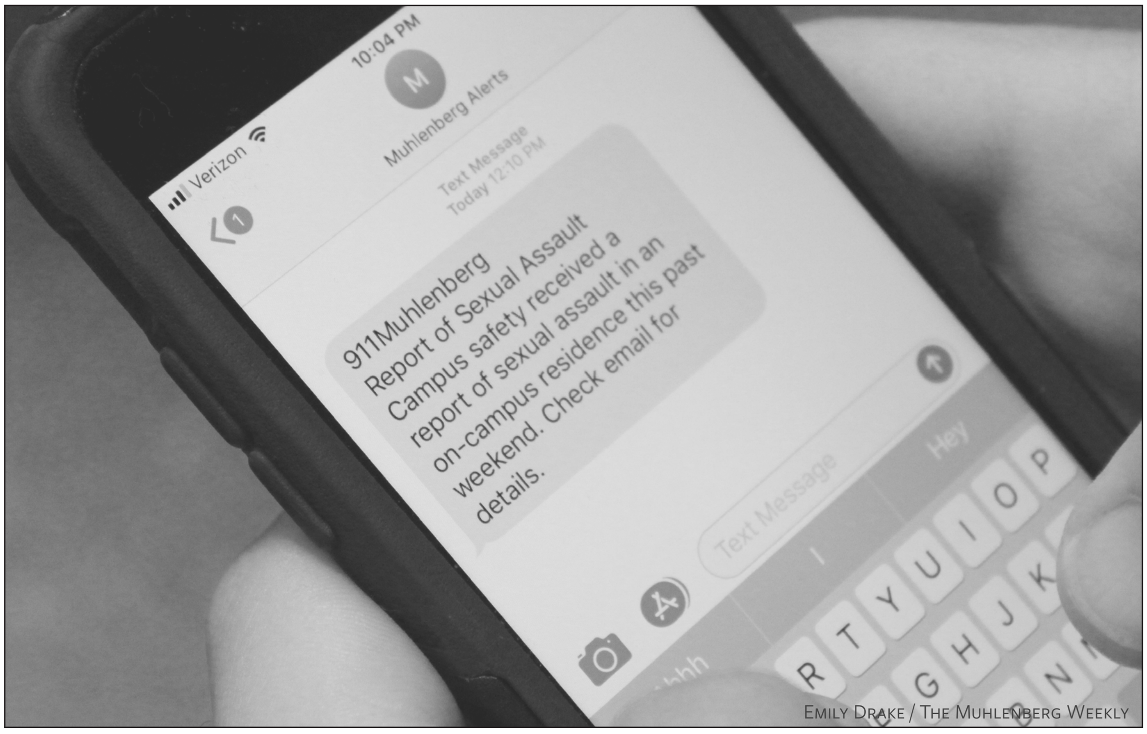
read more on 9

SPORTS

Women's soccer scores two goals in their Centennial Conference season opener against the Franklin & Marshall Diplomats. Up next: Haverford.

read more on 12

Warning issued in response to sexual assault on campus


Verizon
10:04 PM
Muhlenberg Alerts
Text Message
Today 12:10 PM
911Muhlenberg
Report of Sexual Assault
Campus safety received a report of sexual assault in an on-campus residence this past weekend. Check email for details.
Text Message

Emily Drake / The Muhlenberg Weekly

A student reads the e2campus alert regarding a sexual assault which took place sometime over the course of the weekend.

By Sydney Coplin
News Editor

On Tuesday, Sept. 18 at around noon, a text and email notification from Bill Keller, Executive Director of Office of Communications, was sent out to the entire campus community reporting that an incident of sexual assault occurred in an on-campus residence hall that past weekend.

The implementation and usage of this campus-wide alert system, known formally as the E2Campus emergency alert system, is in accordance with The Clery Act.

According to a news report that The Muhlenberg Weekly covered last year about the Benfer armed robbery, "The Clery Act, named after a Lehigh University freshman who was raped and murdered in 1986, was amended following the Virginia Tech mass shooting to require institutions to issue 'timely warnings' in the event of an incident that threatens the safety of students or employees."

"We have a requirement under Clery to send timely warnings when it is appropriate," explains Brian Fidati, Director & Chief of Campus Safety. "Given the circumstances of the event we determined that it would be appropriate...even though it was a couple days ago, it still qualified."

Fidati explained the reasons for the gap in time between the occurrence of the incident and the notification.

"The incident occurred over the weekend; however, at that time I did not have enough detail to make a judgement call on what was being reported. I had very little information," said Fidati.

> **"If there was an immediate threat to the campus we would give people the information they needed to make an assessment about how to keep themselves safe."**

Although the incident did occur over the weekend, the individual did not report it to Campus Safety until Monday, and more information still had to be obtained before it would be suitable to send out to the rest of campus.

There also has to be a degree of communication with the person reporting the incident.

"We don't send the campus [timely warnings] without notifying the impacted person. We don't want it to be a surprise to them, so there was a delay in making contact with that individual," noted Fidati.

Once the individual was notified, the decision about what was actually going to be included in the emergency alert was appropriately limited.

Fidati points out that they can "only share information to a degree to let people know that something happened, and draw attention to the sexual misconduct policy."

Protecting the identity of the impacted individual or individuals is extremely important, but depending on whether or not there is an immediate threat to campus, more information will always be included if necessary.

"If there was an immediate threat to the campus we would give people the information they needed to make an assessment about how to keep themselves safe," explains Fidati.

Lin-Chi Wang, Associate Dean of Students & Director of Equity and Title IX, could not be reached by Campus Safety prior to sending out the alert.

"I would say the most powerful thing that you could take away is an awareness that this does occur, and that there are circumstances that lead to this," says Fidati. "People should read that sexual misconduct policy and understand what constitutes sexual misconduct so they can know where those boundaries should be in terms of consent."

Additional reporting by Chloe Gravereaux.

Cornered into closing

Cafe Frais shuts its doors after just under a year

By Matt Riebesell
Managing Editor

The corner of 22nd and Liberty will no longer host Cafe Frais, the corner cafe that tried to establish itself as a neighborhood fixture. Serving a menu which was trendy to some, weird to others and too expensive for the rest of the West End neighborhood, owner Jason Lund was forced to shut down his business due to revenue shortfalls.

A resident of Hoboken, N.J., Lund is a managing partner of OSBAAT Development LLC which stands for One Small Business At A Time. Lund did not have any experience managing or owning restaurants, but was excited for the new endeavour which would take him on a journey that was described as "headache" in some ways, but a "learning experience" in others.

The experience started back in 2013 when Lund tried to use the corner lot to create a "boutique style market" (according to a WFMZ article published on Nov. 12, 2013.) in a building that Lund said was in "disrepair." During Lund's attempts to purchase and rezone the building for his market style concept he faced challenges.

"I made the mistake of not having my plans fully 100 percent solidified because I didn't know what I was doing there yet," explained Lund. "All you have to do is literally have one person oppose your zoning and there is a forced zoning hearing." In the end Lund says, he got the zoning done ("it cost me a fortune"), but at last he could finally start to act on his vision.

Lund's vision was almost a reality during 2017 when the building's construction was nearly complete. It was time to begin strategizing for the day to day of the operation. Lund says in a perfect world, he wouldn't have opted to purchase the whole building. "I didn't want to own it, I wanted to build it and rent it," he said. He also mentioned

see **Frais** page 3

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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The Muhlenberg Weekly strives for accuracy in reporting and writing, but we acknowledge that mistakes happen. Readers are invited to submit corrections about errors in articles, and they should be submitted to weeklyeditor@gmail.com. Corrections are also brought to our staff's attention by our own editors and writers. Our staff will review the suggested correction, consult with the author of the article, and issue the appropriate correction. Online corrections are located at the bottom of the article. Print corrections are located within the paper, on the page indicated in the online edition. However, The Weekly does not grant take-down requests for articles.

ADVERTISING POLICY

We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

Monday, September 10
Injured Student - 2:20 a.m.
In the Alpha Tau Omega house, there was a report of an injured student. The student was transported to the hospital by Campus Safety.

Fire Alarm - 2:24 p.m.
In Martin Luther Hall, there was a report of a fire alarm sounding, but no cause was found.

Tuesday, September 11
Fire Alarm - 1:05 a.m.
There was a report of a fire alarm sounding on 23rd Street caused by steam from shower. The system was silenced and reset.

Criminal Mischief - 11:09 p.m.
There was a report of criminal mischief on the second floor of Walz Hall. Individuals were identified and spoken to and Residential Services was notified.

Wednesday, September 12
Fire Alarm - 9:08 a.m.
Report of fire alarm in East Hall, but no cause was found.

Thursday, September 13
Harassment - 4:08 p.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of harassment. Individuals were spoken to and an investigation will continue.

Friday, September 14
Hit-and-run - 10:35 a.m.
At 26th and Chew, there was a report of a hit-and-run to a vehicle in the parking lot, causing minor damage to wheels. There are no suspects at this time.

Vehicle Issue - 8:18 p.m.
In the lower Village parking lot, there was a report of a vehicle with windows open and keys in ignition. Vehicle secured by campus safety and keys delivered to owner.

Disabled vehicle - 8:22 p.m.
At the Keck House parking lot, there was a report of a disabled vehicle. Campus Safety succesfully restarted the vehicle.

Saturday, September 15
Alcohol Violation - 12:01 a.m.
In Prosser Annex, there was a report of an alcohol violation. Muhlenberg EMS responded and transported a student to hospital.

Alcohol Violation - 12:28 a.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of an alcohol violation. The student was transported to the hospital by Campus Safety.

Sick student - 10:28 a.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of a sick student. Muhlenberg EMS responded and the student was transported to the hospital.

Sunday, September 16
Noise Complaint - 12:35 a.m.
At North 22nd Street, there was a report of a noise compllaint. Allentown police responded and issued a Disruptive Conduct Report.

Disabled Vehicle - 11:39 a.m.
At Robertson Hall, there was a request to jump start a vehicle. Campus Safety could not restart the vehicle.

Fire Alarm - 6:17 p.m.
In Martin Luther Hall, there was a report of a fire alarm sounding due to sprinkler waterflow monitor. The problem was corrected.

Odor Investigation - 8:55 p.m.
At North 23rd Street, there was a report of a smell of natural gas. UGI was notified, and no further incident was reported.

Vandalism - 12:00 a.m.
In Prosser Annex, there was a report of bathroom mirrors removed from the wall. There are no suspects at this time. A work order was placed to replace the mirrors.

SCOREing funds for clubs

New digital system introduced at treasurer meeting

By Chloe Gravereaux
Editor-in-Chief

Student Government Association (SGA) Treasurer Gaby Baum '21 and SGA advisor Steve Dutton introduced a new digital funding request system called SCORE at a Sept.12 meeting for club treasurers in Miller Forum, Moyer Hall.

SCORE- which stands for Student Club Organization Request for Expenses - is a digital replacement for the paper warrant system that clubs used previously. Each SCORE is an if-then Google form that can be accessed from the student organizations web page under forms. Dutton and Baum designed SCORE over the summer to make requesting funds easier for clubs.

"As times have evolved the school has started to go digital into a lot of different platforms," said Baum, "and we found that this was the perfect opportunity to bring a lot of the club and organizations into a digital platform as well to make it easier and more accomodating for them to access overall."

Each SCORE form contains the information previously found on the warrant, such as club name and account, name of payee, brief explanation of expenses, along with three methods of payment: the college credit card, check, or reimbursement.

"We really want to get everything mainstreamed to a credit card," said Baum, "so students don't have to put their own funds on the table and wait to be reimbursed."

The college credit card can be used to order items online. When using the credit card option, students should enter the date by which the item is needed in the "payment deadline" option and attach a screenshot of their shopping cart to the form.

The checks are cut by the controller's office, and will either be held for pickup at that location or mailed to the payee upon request.

Finally, reimbursement requests must be filled out on SCORE prior to the purchase of any items. A proposed cost should be included. After purchase, students then fill out a second SCORE to cut a check to the person needing reimbursement. As Dutton pointed out, this should be the last option pursued by clubs.

"I do not want the burden of carrying debt of any amount to fall onto students or advisors, even for a short period of time," said Dutton. "I do not want to discourage students from holding a leadership position within their organization because there′s an inherent responsibility to have to put personal money upfront for expenses. If at all possible, using the college credit card should be the first option, followed by having a check sent, then lastly, requesting a reimbursement."

Once submitted, the form goes to Baum and Dutton, than the club's advisor for a signature, before finally bouncing back to Baum and Dutton. Both suggest that club leaders keep in contact with their advisor when requesting funds to expedite the process.

Baum gets back to students the day she receives a SCORE, and at times gets about five a day. Although Dutton advises that SCOREs be submitted two weeks before the funds are needed, in case anything should be held up and to ensure online orders arrive on time.

The only prohibitions are that SGA funds are not to be used to purchase anything illegal, as donations to charities, gifts for individual club members, or to be used for games of chance.

Deposits must still be made with paper slips.

Baum and Dutton took a few months over the summer to design the form and to coordinate with Office of Information and Technology, the Controller's office, and club leaders and advisors.

Behind the transfer:

Changes made to transfer orientation ease student transition

By Sydney Coplin
News Editor

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Public Relations

Pictured here with her fellow Orientation Leaders, Devin Goldsmith '21 (first from right) was one of two Transfer Orientation Leaders, along with Eva Nelson '21.

On Friday, Aug. 24, 29 new transfer students arrived on campus to begin their transition to the Muhlenberg community. With last year's transfer move-in day occuring on a Saturday, the decision to have the students settle on campus a day early on Friday was one of the many alterations made to the transfer student orientation program.

"The goal was to model [transfer orientation] after the freshmen orientation, with an understanding that these students have been on a college campus before," explained Eric Thompson, Senior Assistant Director of Admissions.

Thompson credits Jan Schumacher, Associate Dean of Students & Director of Student Engagement, for leading the shift of orientation "to be more intentional and more inclusive with the incoming transfer students."

"One of the important differences is [transfer students] are not new students; instead, they are new to Muhlenberg College," explained Schumacher. "They don't necessarily need all the programming geared to help with the transition from high school to college, but they do need to understand this campus and what is unique about Muhlenberg."

Besides an earlier move-in day, another difference between last year's transfer orientation compared to this year was the addition of orientation groups, which was similar to the structure of freshmen orientation. With that being said, it is important to note that there are differences between transfer students and first-year students, or freshmen.

Distinguishing between freshmen and transfer students was a key factor in appropriately separating their respective orientations. Schumacher had a vital role in enhancing transfer student orientation, and generally working to identify these distinctions between freshmen and transfers.

"Our initial discussions had been to determine how to expand the orientation so it was meaningful for transfer students and not completely repetitive of what they may have experienced at a previous school," said Schumacher. "We worked with Orientation Leaders to lead the transfer student groups"

In addition to Orientation Leaders, there was also a collaboration between past transfer students, Admissions counselors, Student Engagement and Residential Services.

"It has been a while since my own orientation experience so this is modeled based on hearing feedback from some transfer students in my former role as Director of Residential Services about their transition," said Schumacher.

In terms of receiving up-to-date feedback from this year's orientation, a survey was sent out to all of the transfer students who participated in orientation. With Orientation Leaders playing a vital role in the planning of orientation, they will also continue to give feedback on how they thought it turned out this year.

A committee will also continue to review and reflect on this year's orientation program, and the hope is that it will continue to improve as the years progress.

"While the overall weekend went well, I think success is evident in the students engaging with each other and their OLs both through education and social programming," said Schumacher, reflecting on her own thoughts about the orientation weekend. "Students come into the transition process in different places of comfort but if they leave the weekend feeling like they know the campus, what is expected of them, have made a friend or two and look forward to starting classes, that is success too."

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from **Frais** page 1

trying to work a leasing deal with Muhlenberg, but the two sides could not reach an agreement.

Lund settled on purchasing the building and creating a partnership with a local chef who would run the daily operations of the space while Lund worked on more real estate ventures from his Manhattan offices. "While building it, I had a bunch of people come to look at it who were interesting in renting the space," said Lund. He said every business kind imaginable had inquired about the corner lot. Lund was also certain of one thing, he wanted to give someone "a cool opportunity" to be creative and be a part of a successful business.

Lund made contact with the owner of Tre' Locally Sourced and was impressed with the resume of the head chef who had been an executive chef at a restaurant Lund liked, and had also opened a gastropub. "I'm an hour and a half away from Allentown," Lund said speaking on his original vision of the partnership. "I went into business with them and I trusted them. I was willing to give it a ride."

Lund described that he gave Tre' Locally Sourced, a gourmet foodery, "100 percent creative control over everything." Lund also hired a restaurant consultant to crunch numbers and evaluate the cafe to make business decisions.

"I hired a bunch of college students as staff," said Lund. "They were there on time and they did good work." He also wanted to ensure that his employees made a fair working wage at the cafe and paid the students $10 an hour, $2.75 over Pennsylvania's minimum wage. Unfortunately, he had take the students off of the schedule almost as soon as he put them on. "The cost of labor was literally killing the business."

At about the same time as the cafe opened, the new partners from Tre' Locally Sourced told Lund that they were going to begin operating a food truck. Lund was not looking to enter the food truck industry, but he went along with it. He was concerned about how the caterers would balance the two very new businesses and Lund said he was told not to worry. The food truck and cafe ended up being separate from each other after attempts to merge, but Lund explained that he was fine with letting Tre' Locally Sourced use the cafe, and self-storage facility in the basement (which Lund also owned) to prepare, cook in and store items. The Weekly reached out to Tre' Locally sourced for comment but they never responded.

The two businesses struggled over the year. Lund remembers during the college's winter break they had to "beg people to come in." The cafe went from bringing in $1,500 - $2000 during the fall semester to $200 - $250 during the winter months.

Lund met another roadblock. Sodexo. Their contract with the College limits any outside food and catering on the campus.

Before the eventual and seemingly abrupt closing of Cafe Frais there were attempts to rescue the establishment. "I originally ran the numbers to stay open six days a week from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.," said Lund. "It's brutally long hours but that's what you have to do. It's a requirement." Then when no one seemed to be going to the cafe during dinner hours the decision was made to shorten the day until 5 p.m. "Dinner was the place to die. We couldn't get anyone to come in."

Lund originally envisioned a delivery business to students in campus dorms. He said that he never received a single delivery order.

Catty-corner to Cafe Frais is the local bar, The Tavern on Liberty which has been owned by Sherry Russoli and her husband for 13 years. Russoli credits the tavern's success to their roots in the West End of Allentown.

"Everyone that ever owned the place (before us) was going to try and make the place a Muhlenberg place,"said Russoli. "We have people sitting in here from age 21 to 75." She said making sure both Allentown residents and Muhlenberg students are able to enjoy the space is a key part of her business model.

Russoli was skeptical of the viability of a business in the corner location before Lund took it over. "I have been looking at that property for a long time," she said. "I just don't know what would work there. If I did, my husband and I probably would have tried to buy it." Russoli did agree that the building was in dire need of an update.

Russoli also benefits from running her business locally, something she came to understand a lot more after opening other restaurants in Berks County. She also has reliable staff that can keep the business running smoothly, allowing her time to focus on her other restaurants, or even go on vacation. "I am fortunate to have staff who is loyal to me. I have staff who has worked nine out of the 13 years."

The West End isn't the only location in Allentown seeing business close--restaurants in downtown Allentown like Centro and Grain also had to close their doors recently.

On Tuesday, Sept. 11th, a message was posted on Cafe Frais' Facebook page announced that the business would remain closed.

Lund is still hopeful the lot will bring him a profit in the future. "The storage has value, it filled up in two weeks," he said. Lund is also confident that the apartment on the top floor of the building will rent for next school year. Lund has experience renting houses to college students at the University of Maryland.

He does not expect the portion of the building that Cafe Frais once inhabited to sit empty for long. "The second I closed I had plenty of people call me to ask about renting the space and to open up something new."

The Muhlenberg community has probably not seen the last business in the property owned by Lund on the corner of 23rd and Liberty, but it has seen the last of Cafe Frais. "I'm a real estate professional. I'll stay and play in my zone. I made the mistake as an entrepreneur of stepping out of my zone, but I enjoyed putting it all together."

Research rally

Students to present at celebration of summer research and scholarship

By Rachel Brodsky
Contributing Writer

On Sept. 22 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Center for the Arts, students across various majors and interests will be presenting research they worked on over the summer here at Muhlenberg. The poster session is an opportunity for students to celebrate their work and share their knowledge with the wider Muhlenberg community. There is no competition; students are just eager to show off their hard work.

"This summer, one third of our student projects were in the social science and humanities, with a full 10 percent in the humanities" said Dr. Keri Colabroy, an associate professor of chemistry who helped to facilitate this program and organize the poster session.

Participants also researched work in the fields of biology, biochemistry, mathematics, neuroscience and physics. Along with a multitude of disciplines being covered, a few students also did their research outside of Muhlenberg, including University of Michigan and Harvard University. Some even did their research abroad, including Denmark, Iceland and the Czech Republic.

"A student who is newer to research in an area will require more guidance than one who is more experienced," Colabroy explains, "but high-quality research at the undergraduate level is most often the result of student-faculty collaboration in which the faculty member is mentor, principal investigator and teacher."

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Public Relations

Levelle Arnold '20 presents his summer research at last year's poster fair.

So many Muhlenberg students and faculty members successfully work together and are able to learn from each other.

"This was my second summer working on a history project on women's protests in a territory of the Congo," said Michaela Feinberg '19, who participated in research at Muhlenberg over the summer.

Feinberg researched for two months each summer and hopes to continue it for her history CUE. She met with her faculty advisor, Dr. Danielle Sanchez, twice a week, and sometimes more, to discuss her progress. By doing this work over the summer rather than during a semester at Muhlenberg, Feinberg was able to do archival research and visit the United Nations Archives in New York as well as the New York Public Library and the Library of Congress.

Feinberg is passionate about her research and is excited to add that her studies will be helpful for her future goal of attending grad school for either history or library science. She highly recommends this program to her fellow peers. Even though she was not home over the summer, she explains, "It was definitely worth it! I had a few friends on campus and actually spend a lot of time off campus, so that helped break up the time."

When asked how this program may be improved, Feinberg stated, "I would improve it by encouraging more humanities students to do it. Only a few other humanities students have researched with me and I think that it′s equally important to promote different types of research. Summer research is a great opportunity and I think it should be more interdisciplinary."

Dr. Colabroy also speaks about the future of the program and what she hopes to see come next for both students and faculty involved and those in the greater Muhlenberg community. She hopes "more and more students will have an interest in and opportunity to engage in research and scholarship on campus." She adds that working with students is some of the best teaching she does; it creates a long-lasting relationship and benefits both sides.

Dr. Colabroy also anticipates that one day the poster session will become too large to even fit in the CA. This poster session will be informative and likely motivate fellow students and faculty to participate in their own research.

Making out-of-state students' votes count

By Laura Schwarz
Contributing Writer

As the Nov. 6 midterm elections draw closer, many Muhlenberg students may be unaware of their voting options and approaching deadlines. With out-of-state students making up 74 percent of the student population, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, many students are faced with the choice of registering to vote in Muhlenberg's voting district, Pennsylvania's 7th congressional district, or applying for an absentee ballot to vote in their home district. With less than two months until the elections, deadlines for voting registration are of paramount importance.

The deadline for Pennsylvania voting registration is Oct. 9, 30 days before the election, and Pennsylvania allows college students to register within the district they currently reside in, giving out-of-state Muhlenberg students the option to either vote in Muhlenberg's district or in their home district. In making this decision, students should consider the advice of political science professor, Michele Deegan.

"Since District 7 is going to be a close race, some students might feel their vote counting more here than if they live in a congressional district that has a safe seat incumbent," explains Deegan.

Political science professor Christopher Borick agrees, explaining "in making a decision on whether to vote here or in their home state, a student should consider where the races are most competitive. If they vote here, the PA 7th congressional district is one of the most competitive in the country so lots of attention is on that race."

Both professors stress that some states make it harder to vote using an absentee ballot than in other states.

For students looking to use an absentee ballot, rockthevote.org is a great resource for specific information regarding voting regulations in each state. Rock the Vote describes themselves as "a nonpartisan nonprofit dedicated to building the political power of young people." Their website provides details about voting rights in general as well as an easily accessible map for exploring the voting regulations and deadlines in each specific state.

According to the latest report conducted by the National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement, in 2016, 29.3 percent of voting Muhlenberg students used an absentee ballot. With such a large portion of students using this method, it is important for them to note that many states have different deadlines for registration and applying for an absentee ballot. For instance, in New York, the last day to register to vote is Oct. 12, while in New Jersey it is Oct. 16.

Due to the wide variation of restrictions and deadlines in each state, it is each student's responsibility to research their voting options to ensure that they will be eligible to vote.

In today's turbulent political climate, it has become more and more apparent that students and all young people must exercise their right to vote. It is not enough for students to vote only in presidential elections, and it is important for them to research the potential candidates before reaching the polling station. Additionally, for students registered to vote in Pennsylvania's 7th congressional district, the polling location is located in Seegers Union, making it easily accessible to students living on campus.

Pennsylvania does not allow same day voter registration, so students should not wait until the last minute when it may then be too late. To help students further understand deadlines, paperwork, and registration details, the BergVotes club will have registration tables set up in Seegers from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Tuesday.

Beth Halpern, the faculty advisor for BergVotes, explains some of the club's activities for the weeks leading up to the election, saying that the club will be "registering people to vote and answering questions about voter registration."

National Voter Registration day is on Sept. 25 and the group plans to table during lunch and then host an informal ″Fill Out your Absentee Ballot″ meeting in Java Joe′s that evening.

Taylor Chase, the BergVotes President, adds, "[students] can also reach out to us at bergvotes@gmail.com, stop into the Office of Community Engagement in the student life suite, or reach out to us on Social media."

"Depending on the outcome of the November elections, President Trump′s agenda will either be highly constrained or propelled forward in the next two years," Borick says, stressing the importance of voting in the upcoming midterm elections.

"The ramifications for environmental policy, public health and immigration are particularly large in terms of this election, so if these issues matter to you there is more reason than ever to vote."

Additionally, Deegan wants students to know "that voting is only one form of political engagement, and that in a democracy we need to be engaged more intensely and stay informed about issues at the local, state, national and international levels."

"Communication leads to community, that is, to understanding, intimacy and mutual valuing."

—Rollo May

A platform for freedom:
The International Cultural Festival

Arielle Waxman / The Muhlenberg Weekly
Nancy Famby, Vice President of Safari Yangu Immigrant Stories, smiles as she introduces the organization.

By Brooke Weber
Arts & Culture Editor

As I round the corner of Linden and North 5th Street, it hits me all at once – the smell of barbeque, the echoing bass of music played on loudspeakers, the distant chatter of families, friends and strangers all sparking conversation. On this Sept. 15, the Arts Park's normally open green grass is lined with colorful vendors and food stands of all flavors, their patrons milling about the scene with family and friends in tow. A stage sits directly beneath the towering Miller Symphony Hall mural, its backdrop forming a kind of mural in and of itself: the DJ's booth is surrounded by paintings of figures, each of different races and presentations. These artworks mirror the event's attendees in their diversity, reflecting the African, Indian, Latinx, Middle Eastern and other cultures given a platform to express themselves here. Here, there's no front to put up, no disguise to arm oneself with. There's just genuine enjoyment and appreciation of the worldviews and lifestyles of others, a public acknowledgement that white and American need not be the default setting for what is worth celebrating.

"Here" is the first annual International Cultural Festival, an event largely founded by Michelle Zattoni and sponsored by WOMEN Transforming the Valley, Promise Neighborhoods of the Lehigh Valley and Safari Yangu Immigrant Stories. Throughout its two days of operation on Sept. 14 and 15, the festival hosted a plethora of performances, such as youth dance crews and international fashion shows, as well as food stands showcasing no less than six different countries' cuisines and a variety of small community business and nonprofit booths.

One such booth was home to Handy Mandy Crafts, a handmade Indian arts shop run by Falguni and Nirav Shah. The pair and their family all contribute to the wide array of items made available for sale, everything from tea light holders to paper accessories to landscape paintings of forests and waterfalls. Though the Shahs have certainly had their fair share of festival experience – they had just showcased their work at an India Heritage Day event and are planning to do so again at the upcoming Allentown ArtsFest – they insist that having the opportunity to share and educate about their culture never gets old.

"It's really nice that people are interested to know more, and we try to show stuff which

see **Festival** page 5

From student to professor
Alum Jon Reimer brings Japanese theatre to Muhlenberg

By Hannah Turner
Contributing Writer

When students graduate from Muhlenberg, they often plan to come back and visit. Jon Reimer '06, however, took that one step further and came back as a professor. Teaching Japanese Theatre, Pan-Asian Theatre and Dramaturgy this semester, Reimer has brought his passion for Asian theatre to Muhlenberg. When Reimer was a student here, he loved nothing more than Japanese theatre and culture. When the theatre department asked him what courses he wanted to teach this semester as a visiting professor, he already knew the answer: "I wanted to teach the classes that I wanted when I was here that they didn't offer."

Coming back to Muhlenberg was like a dream for Professor Reimer. He spoke in detail about how the geography is the same, the community is the same and even some of the faculty members are the same. The most unbelievable part for Reimer was being assigned a classroom in his old fraternity house. An alum of Phi Kappa Tau, Reimer walked into the now Hillside House to teach his first class in complete shock: "Exploring the space as my classroom was out of this world surreal." Now, every Tuesday morning, Reimer sits in his old fraternity pool room and teaches students about Japanese theatre.

Reimer spoke in depth about how Japanese theatre differs from all other types in terms of aesthetic and how it is overall more focused on action and the body as opposed to the mind. Western theatre is often about the way the brain works, and actors can often get trapped in their heads. Japanese theatre helps students to separate their thoughts from their bodies and become more grounded in the art form and in theatre as a whole.

"Japanese theatre helps students to separate their thoughts from their bodies and become more grounded in the art form and in theatre as a whole."

So, why Japanese theatre at Muhlenberg? What can our actors learn from these techniques? According to Reimer, Japanese theatre is rooted in physicality and focus, something that all actors can benefit from. Learning to control the body in an incredibly detailed way can prove useful in all areas of performance, from dancing to acting to singing. Japanese theatre, according to Reimer, is based on "a focus on the body and a focus on centering to the ground and breath control." More than anything, Reimer wanted to come to Muhlenberg and make an impact on our theatre community. Introducing students to an entirely new art form is important to him, and it helps that he gets to teach something that he is so deeply passionate about. When asked what his goals were for his students this semester, Reimer replied, "First and foremost to have a better understanding and appreciation for what Japanese theatre is and what it entails."

Next on the docket for Reimer is finishing his PhD at the University of California San Diego. His research focuses on the intersection between Japanese theatre and queer performance, which is relatively untouched territory. How do these two connect, and why is it important that we study it? Without giving too much of his research away, Reimer is studying the Japanese idea of "ma" or "empty space," and how the idea of ma has queer undertones.

Reimer is an exceptional example of the amazing opportunities and adventures that await Muhlenberg graduates. He found his passion while he was here, and followed it to the ends of the earth. Though what he found interesting did not always excite others, he never let that stop him from pursuing an understanding of Japanese theatre and culture in full force. Stories like Reimer's are important for students (especially seniors) to remember as graduation draws closer. If you are profoundly passionate about something, the opportunities that await you are endless. Above all, like Reimer, stay true to yourself. Don't let what others think of your dreams or your passions affect them or the extent to which you pursue them. And who knows? Maybe you'll be returning to Muhlenberg in 12 years to teach a class on something you really, truly love.

Photographs towards perfection

By Lauren D. Mazur
Arts & Culture Editor

If you could catch a moment in a flash, capture a person's being and presence instantaneously, how magical would that be? To Audrey Yan '19, these actions are daily occurrences — photography is both her passion and mission as her final year at Muhlenberg draws to a close.

"I'm a double major in studio art with a concentration in photography, and the other major is dance with a concentration in choreography," Yan says, sitting beneath her hanging artwork.

"I was really intrigued with cities," Yan gestures toward the circular works behind her.

"I really wanted to do panoramics. So originally I was just going to do that photo over there," a photo of two rings of cities hangs in the left corner of Yan's art wall, a giant pupil stares back.

Her first photograph was of two simple circular structures, one circle drawn within another. It was only a test, but a start toward her new project—that being enso.

"*Enso* is a brushstroke...it symbolizes strength, elegance, peace ... zen in a way."

Yan presented more photographs of cities in circular formation, however, unlike the previous there were incomplete.

"Enso is minimalistic, one-maybe two strokes, and it symbolizes peace and strength... it's also a little bit about perfection ... the reason it's not a closed circle is because it allows for room to grow. For everything to become perfect."

Enso serves as both a symbol and philosophy within Zen Buddhist tradition. As Yan states, it is simply an incomplete, painted circle, which serves to represent Zen ideology. Yan strives to find an interesting and creative balance within her photography between cities and enso itself.

"I chose to do that because I think it's kind of ironic ... cities aren't often viewed as peaceful. I wanted to play with it physically looking like an enso sign, and then adding a liberty bell, and then I put in the Chinese symbol for love."

While researching enso, Yan began incorporating its teachings into her second major.

"I'm also choreographing this semester for Moving Stories, and the piece I'm doing refers back to enso. I wanted to try and merge the two together."

With these two majors in hand, I couldn't help but wonder about her inspiration.

"I never really pictured myself being a studio art major actually. I came to college thinking I was going to be a math and dance major — I took one math class and — no," she laughed.

"I moved on to print making but I had an allergic reaction to the chemicals in the ink, so..." another laugh as Yan clapped her hands together, "Alright! Time to change that ... and I ended up being a photographer."

Yan initially began her photo career with portraits of those around her.

"I think people are really complicated ... depending on how you capture them, how you edit them to look... the eyes are the window to the soul. I think you can tell a lot about a person by the way that they hold themselves in a picture. I think that's really intriguing and people can always draw from it and interpret it way differently depending on how close they are to the person." She leaned in closer on her couch, her left hand gestured again towards me. "Everyone can take photos, and I think that's something very important to keep in mind: everyone has this technology to take photos with, but it's like what you do with it and what you personally connect to that photo is what other people see."

Arielle Waxman / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Audrey Yan '19 prepares for her final project as an art studio major.

Yan's photos achieve another level of understanding. Taking different philosophies and concepts, she brings them together for something new, spectacular and beautiful.

"Performing art, or visual art, can mean a lot for different people. It's a great outlet for anxiety or anything like that...you're allowed to express whatever you want, without even having to explain it."

Saturday night goes live a day early

A review of Mikey Day's Performance

By Ethan Forrer
Staff Writer

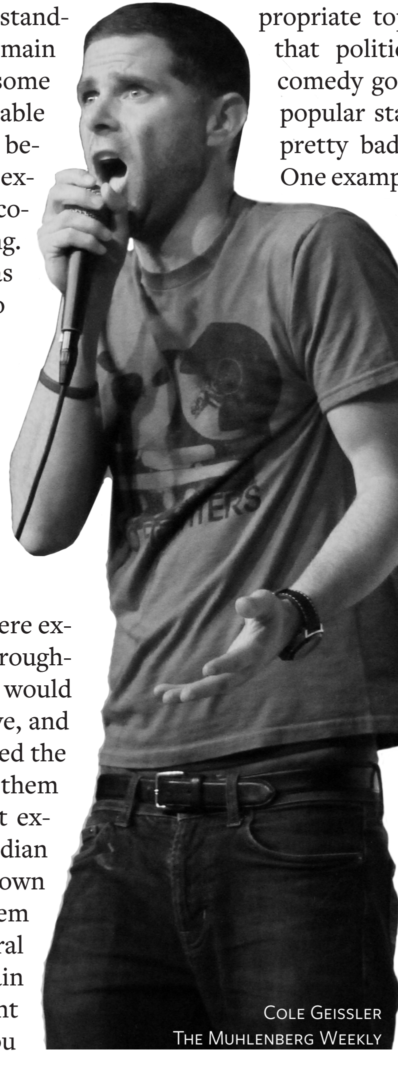
Last Friday, the Muhlenberg Activities Council hosted a comedy night, bringing in prominent comedy Mikey Day, a writer and performer on "SNL," and his opener Streeter Seidell, a writer on "SNL" also known for his work with the internet-based comedy group CollegeHumor. It is no surprise that this event was very interesting to the student body, evident from the line to the doors of the event space snaking all the way out the front doors of Seegers Union a full 15 minutes before doors opened, due to how popular "SNL" is now. Conversely, it was no small task for the MAC to bring in big names like Day and Seidell, even flying Day out from where he lives in California just to perform for us.

During the performance, Seidell did a quick warm-up bit consisting of basic pleasantries, anecdotes and a good old crazy college story. Seidell asked the audience a few starter questions about their experience with comedy and reminded us how bad his job is and how much we shouldn't pursue a career in writing comedy, in true comedic tradition. After that, Seidell switched to a few words of wisdom ranging from the faux pas that is eating McDonalds on a plane to the true danger of agreeing with the voice in your head for a change to the unnecessarily humanistic names people give to their dogs. Seidell wrapped up his set with a longer story highlighting the insanity and intrigue that comes from your crazy freshman roommates. Then the main event, Mikey Day, came on stage to round out the show. Day covered a wide range of topics and forms during his stand-up bit, from a powerpoint about prank texting his father to more crazy college stories to some unaired "SNL" skits he worked on, ultimately ending with a Q and A.

Obviously, Day and Seidell are extremely funny individuals who have made it quite far in the world of comedy as a testament to that fact. They are not, however, stand-up comedians. Going off the mixed reactions from the students after the show, it was pretty clear that Day and Seidell were sketch based comedians and not completely used to doing stand-up. While both stand-up and sketch are styles of comedy, they are performed by very different types of comedians. Sketch comedians are primarily actors and other theater minded people, which is why actors on "SNL" (a sketch-based show) typically go on to become movie stars or enter other acting careers — not do stand-up. It's the same reason why stand-up comedians don't go onto pursue professional acting, even stand-up comedians that are far more famous than the sketch comedians that do go on to acting. A stand-up comedian isn't going to do as well in a sketch because they're not used to playing off another scripted character as they are the live audience; the same is true for a sketch comedian not being as good at playing off the audience as they would another actor in a sketch.

There were several problems that came through during the program that held it back as a stand-up performance. One main problem that made some students uncomfortable was the disconnect between what we were expecting and what the comedians were expecting. Because this event was free and fully open to the campus, like most of our events typically are, we think it as normal to stop by for a bit and maybe head out when you get bored or you just have something else to do. This is not what Day and Seidell were expecting. Periodically throughout the night, students would get up and start to leave, and every time this happened the comedians would call them out on it, as you might expect a stand-up comedian to do at a club or their own event. Another problem was that this is a liberal arts campus, which again holds a very different crowd than what you would typically imagine a stand-up club in the city would. The foundation for humor basically stems from non-socially accepted topics, or at least involves inappropriate topics. Now I'm not saying that political correctness is where comedy goes to die, but most of the popular stand-up bits are inherently pretty bad if you think it through. One example of this was a joke Seidell made about Native American names that was still very tame in the world of stand-up jokes, but toed the line for what some students felt comfortable laughing at.

Ultimately, a stand-up performance is one of the only types events that can be easily held with only a famous comedian or two, which is why it was a good go-to for MAC. While the draw of a big name and already proven funny comedian is great for promoting an event, getting a stand-up comedian to do what they're good at might work out better.


Cole Geissler
The Muhlenberg Weekly

Exploring a world of food right in Allentown

By Arielle Moss
Staff Writer

Marie Pillsbury / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Eunice Umubyeyi '21 was one of many students who celebrated the West End World of Food Festival this past Saturday.

We come from a universe of billions of people with many different interests. It is a rarity to have a place that attracts a large group of people together with one of these shared interests, but a passion we all share is our love for food. On Saturday, Sept. 15, a large community of foodies gathered in Allentown to taste foods from various cultures at the annual West End World of Food Festival.

The West End World of Food Festival was located on Liberty and 19th Streets, which is across the street from the Allentown Farmers Market and Fairgrounds. It felt like a street festival in New York City, with a large delicious variety of foods to tantalize the taste buds, from dumplings to crab cakes: it was a foodie's dream. When you first arrive at the festival, your mouth waters as the scent of Jerkies Jamaican Barbecue and Cinnaminis' Donuts fill your nose. The event was free for the public to attend.

"There are a lot of diverse [food] options," said Arianna Lionetti '19, who enjoyed lunch from The Taza Truck, which specializes in Egyptian cuisine. "The spicy cauliflower is delicious!"

There were at least 15 local and non-local food vendors representing various cultures as well as face-paint artists, a framed landscape portrait vendor and other vendors alike.

"The festival is good for business and attracts a good group of people from outside [the] West End," said Tara Anthony, an employee of Madeline's Baked Goods, which has two Lehigh Valley locations.

Besides the many food options, the festival included free live entertainment from the Allentown's School of Rock, M80, Emily's Toybox and Large Flowerheads.

Those attendees that were 18 years or older had the opportunity to volunteer for one of the three food eating contests for a chance to win a prize, with sponsorship from local Allentown food establishments: donuts from Mary Ann Donut Kitchen, spinach balls from Wert's Cafe and chocolate cake from Madeline's on Liberty.

Five people (four men and one woman) competed for a gift card in the Mary Ann Donuts donut eating contest. The participants had two minutes to eat as many powdered donuts as they could. Powdered sugar painted some of the participants' beards and shirts as the five chowed down. It was a thrilling event to watch because anything could have happened - you never know if the participants and audience members might get sick.

"This was my first time watching a donut-eating contest live and it was very interesting. I felt caught up in the moment and I was rooting for someone. Even though he didn't win, I still thought it was a cool experience. I know I could never eat that much that fast," said Paul Alonso '20.

The first round of the donut eating contest ended in a tie between two gentlemen. As a tie breaker, the two men had to eat another donut, and whoever finished it first earned the title of donut-eating champion. Although they finished the donut at the same speed, a man named Dante Seals swallowed the last bit of donut first and was declared the winner.

Not only was it Seals' first time attending this festival, it was his first time ever participating in a food eating contest. He said that it was an amazing experience.

"I did not prepare beforehand," said Seals, "I just kept eating it and eating — it was crazy!"

Other entertainment included activities from the Allentown Civic Theater and Bodacious Caricature Drawings.

Alonso said that the experience of being able to go around and sample foods from different countries was very enriching.

"Some might think that being in a smaller city like Allentown would mean less of a chance to experience other cultures, but events like this really show how literally walking down the street can open so many international doors and allow one to get a taste of the rest of the world," said Alonso, who enjoyed a Beef Pastelillo from Sazon De PRCP from the Puerto Rican Culture Preservation INC of The Lehigh Valley.

The festival gives Muhlenberg students an annual opportunity to eat out of the dining hall and taste a variety of cuisine that the world has to offer.

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from **Festival** page 5

are related to Indian festivals," said Nirav, "so these [*rakhi* armbands] are actually used in a festival called Rakshabandan, where sisters tie this band to their brothers and it's auspicious ... This [floating candle holder] is for the festival of lights called Diwali. So we like to tell people more about Indian festivals so that they can try and do it or at least be a part of it or use it for home décor. It's just fun that people are loving it."

Beyond the plethora of products for sale, the International Cultural Festival also gave the Allentown community the chance to get up close and personal with some incredible organizations, including Safari Yangu Immigrant Stories, one of the event's co-sponsors. Safari Yangu, which means "My Journey" in Swahili, is a Columbia University-based immigrant advocacy group lead by President Nick Ogutu and Vice President Nancy Famby.

"We are a platform for the immigrants to just talk about ... [and] share their experiences, because sometimes when people come into this country, they are kind of scared. Some people don't speak the language. The food is completely different ... People don't wear these African clothes in America, right?" Famby said, gesturing to her traditional dress and headband. "And we just empower them and also provide them with resources where they can get assistance, and also with the asylum with refugees. You come to this country, and you are lost, and you just need somewhere where you can call for references ... And when people see, you know what, this immigrant came here maybe with one dollar in their pocket or no dollars, and now they are able to change their lives and be professionals and contributing members of the society. That's what we want to show people: that America is made of immigrants, you know. I am a registered nurse by profession, and I've worked as a nurse and employee, and I contribute."

In fact, according to the Safari Yangu website, Famby has won the Transformational Leadership Award in Nursing, and is the Director of Events and Community Liaison for the Bronx New York chapter of Amnesty International. Ogutu, who has lived in Allentown and went to school with festival founder Michelle Zattoni, is also the president of the same Amnesty International chapter and has won the organization's Hironaka Award.

"The narrative has been that the immigrants have not contributed to the development of this country, that, you know, they come here with challenges and they just receive, receive, receive, they give nothing back," said Ogutu. "So we have a YouTube channel where immigrants come and share their stories. And it's a strength-based story, not just of challenges, but how they came here through challenges, the decisions they made, whether they went to school or are starting a business ... and that is not well-covered in the national discourse. And that's the bridge we are trying to cover here, by telling their stories and also organizing immigrant storytelling forums, where American-born citizens come into the audience and immigrants come and share their stories to improve that interaction ... When this festival was coming up, [the founders] approached us and we liked it. We said, 'This is going to be another platform for minorities and immigrants to come and showcase their talent and what they are able to do.' That's why we are participating here."

Safari Yangu is a prime example of what can happen when marginalized groups leverage their own agency and are in control of their own self-image. Because the stories of immigrants profiled on their website are told, produced and disseminated by fellow immigrants, there is no imposition of the same tired tales upon their journeys, no mold that they're forced to try and fit into. Like the environment at the International Cultural Festival, they can just *be*, can share freely and fully without fear of appropriation.

As a Muhlenberg student, this is often one of my biggest fears – how can we as students get involved in the local community without eclipsing the work already being done there? Volunteer Maura O'Reilly '20 demonstrates a path to do just that.

"I found out about the International Cultural Festival through a classmate in my Devising Community class," O'Reilly said. "Once ... there, I met the coordinators and was given two assignments. One was to walk up and around Hamilton Street and around the PPL Center and tell people about the Festival and invite them to come to Arts Park to check it out. The other assignment was to check in with the various vendors and see ... if I could help out in any way ... Muhlenberg students should definitely get involved because the Festival was a lot of fun and it's a chance to get to know more people that we share a city with!"

Muhlenberg is *in* Allentown. We're a part of the city, a part of its community, and breaking away from the so-called "Muhlenbubble" is crucial to acknowledging that community's diverse population and cultures. We're in it. We *are* it. We're in the middle of a city full of complex, beautiful stories and if we choose to listen, we might just hear something that makes us want to rewrite our own.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY/OPINIONS&EDITORIALS

Editorial

Anonymously Credible

Thoughts on the NYT's anonymous Op/Ed

On Sept. 5, The New York Times published an anonymous op/ed piece written by a senior staff member of the Trump administration depicting a first-person account of a republican member attempting to hinder the president's more impulsive initiatives.

Although the content of the article was unsurprising to some, to publish an anonymous source in a time where "Fake News" is a hot topic and the first finger to be pointed at a newspaper was a huge risk to the New York Times, causing many to wonder if it was worth the risk.

The publication of anonymous sources takes a trust from the public that is lacking nowadays, in trusting that the journalist has done their job and the information is credible. The decision was a bold move by the New York Times and what we at The Weekly feel was ultimately the right choice.

As A.G Sulzberger, publisher of the Times, pointed out in an article by the Associated Press, the president's call for an investigation into his staff after publication of the article just shows how important it was to grant anonymity.

"We didn′t think there was any way to make that contribution without some guarantee of anonymity,″ Sulzberger said. ″And I think the president′s actions since the release of this piece have underscored exactly why we felt that was so important.″

Ultimately, the world of journalism suggests that tying a name to someone's opinions or comments forces accountability and responsibility. If the source lies, they will be contradicted in public, and citing sources protects journalists as well. Trusting a faulty source and as a result spreading false information is a much lesser crime than inventing a source to fit an argument.

Yet, sometimes the truth comes with unintended consequences, as pointed out by Tom Nichols, professor of the Naval War college, who was cited in a collection of reactions to the Times' opinion piece.

"If the author of the NYT had used his/her/their name, all we'd be talking about is who they are, where they grew up, their entire career resume, who else they ever worked for and where they are now. The message of the oped itself would be completely lost." said Nichols.

There are, as the Society of Professional Journalists points out, both pros and cons to using anonymous sources. There have been instances where the sources were, actually fake, as was the case of Janet Cook who made up a child heroin addict that won her a Pulitzer prize. On the other end of the spectrum, there was also the more famous Deep Throat who helped Woodward and Burnstein break the story of Watergate. A disclosure of Deep Throat's identity would have undoubtedly cost him his job and also the press a source of information.

The Weekly has (knock on wood) never been in a position where we have needed to examine this question itself, and until recently featured no bylaws on the subject.

The ACP code of ethics, which The Weekly's bylaws are based off of, discourage anonymous sources for credibility's sake and suggest providing as many details as possible to affirm a source's credibility in the reader's eye (ie relevant connections, experience, etc.). Additionally, as long as the editorial staff can vouch for the credibility of the source an anonymous source can be used. This same principle can be applied to letters to the editor and other anonymous opinion pieces. A new addition to our bylaws states that anonymous sources and anonymous letters will be accepted only in cases of extreme fear of retaliation or deemed necessary by the editor and the source.

As always, letters-to-the editor are always appreciated, as are guest submissions, with a byline or without.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

Does 9/11 observance still matter?

By Sophia Richter
Contributing Writer

On Tuesday Sept. 11, 2018, Reverend Kristen Glass Perez led an observance in commemoration of the attacks that occurred in 2001. According to Perez, approximately 50 people were in attendance, including faculty, staff, students and others unaffiliated with the college. Verses from the Gospels, Hebrew bible and Quran were recited as a gesture of unity and accommodation of all faiths.

Previous college observances of 9/11 have included a tolling of the bells and an email sent out to the entire community by the president or other senior staff members. However, in 2016, this tradition came to an unannounced halt, leaving some students feeling bewildered and left in the dark.

"When we are together as a community ... we know that we support one another and I think 9/11 is a way for us to remember that together."

This lack of recognition by the college of such a significant and tragic event in recent American history prompted both the Muhlenberg College Republicans and Muhlenberg College Democrats to write open letters to the president expressing their disappointment at what was perceived to be a deliberate neglect.

"To even suggest that the pain felt by our nation should be forgotten because death is essentially an everyday occurrence," the College Republicans wrote, "is a personal affront to all those who died, lost loved ones and sacrificed their time and health in the relief effort."

Despite their political differences, both the College Republicans and College Democrats agreed.

"To some, remembering 9/11 is an act of patriotism," the College Democrats wrote, "but for all, such a remembrance is, most fundamentally, a sign of humanity."

The Muhlenberg Weekly published both of these letters along with a response by President Williams in their Sept. 15, 2016 issue.

"When I arrived on campus in July 2015," Williams wrote, "I was informed in an early meeting with my senior staff that members from different segments of the campus community had been inquiring for several years as to why we were still having services commemorating 9/11, given the passage of time and the mounting number of other tragedies that were not being remembered on campus."

Clearly the college listened to the voices of the students, as 9/11 observances have been reinstated. But the concern still remains as to whether or not the general student body, not just those involved in the aforementioned groups, feel that there is still a need for an annual commemoration.

"When I arrived here I asked if there is a precedent of having [a 9/11 service]," Perez said, "and I checked that with the senior staff of the college, and people said there is."

Perez's experience with the senior staff seems to directly oppose that of President Williams when he first arrived. In response to queries similar to those that the president raised in his letter, Perez firmly believes that 9/11 observances are important to this campus.

"All of the people who died were loved ones of someone," Perez says. "[The first responders] were just going to work that day, much as any of us might have been. Honoring and remembering that I think is important and that as a community we can collectively hold those stories together... When we are together as a community... we know that we support one another and I think 9/11 is a way for us to remember that together."

The proximity of Muhlenberg to New York results in the proximity of this horrific event to more people. "I'm originally from New York," says Ryan Connelly '19, "my aunt was a first responder." There are many people in the Muhlenberg community who are still affected by this tragedy, including the families of four Muhlenberg alumni who lost their lives in 9/11. As such, Perez says that she would be willing to lead 9/11 commemoration ceremonies whether one person or 100 people show up.

"It's nice to have something as a recognition that this is a different day and it is something to be thinking about."

As one who herself has recently experienced the loss of her husband, she acknowledges that there are many ways that people grieve, and all ways of healing should be made available.

Overall, the general consensus is that the college still should have a 9/11 observance, but perhaps should have something more accessible to busy students, like tolling the bells.

"For people that want to have it [the ceremony], it's valuable," says Desmond Reifsnyder '22. "It's nice to have something as a recognition that this is a different day and it is something to be thinking about."

“Sorry to Bother You” makes common sense out of communism

By Kenzie Richards
Contributing Writer

The last few years of American politics have proven that ″socialism″ and ″communism″ aren′t exactly the dirty words they used to be. Increasing frustration with the Democratic Party has led all kinds of people — not just the upper-class white men often associated with leftist movements — to launch truly progressive candidates like Bernie Sanders and New York′s Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez into the mainstream. This growing movement, oddly enough, hasn′t been very well-reflected in popular culture. Rapper Boots Riley′s new film “Sorry to Bother You” harkens back to a time when radical leftist filmmakers were the norm while being explosively next-level in its shocking plot twists and genre-defying machinations. And in a time where more people than ever are disappearing in culture to escape from politics, it forces its viewers to wake up to the harsh reality of living in a capitalist society, while never seeming pretentious.

“Sorry to Bother You”′s main character, Cassius Green, is a down-on-his-luck telemarketer living in his uncle′s garage with his girlfriend Detroit. Saying anything more would ruin the fun, but essentially, the movie has lots of bones to pick with capitalism, from labor struggles to the commodified state of modern art to the dehumanization of workers. If this sounds dry and preachy, keep in mind that an insane sci-fi-infused plot twist completely shatters the film about halfway through in what is definitely the most hilarious, mind-boggling scene of the year.

> **“The impact of art and popular culture on politics is blown way out of proportion”**

A lot of recent political art immediately gets packaged into an easy-to-understand, ″anti-Trump″ criticism. What is primarily so radical about “Sorry to Bother You” is that it refuses to take the easy road of criticising our ridiculous president, and instead focuses on an issue that has existed years before Trump and will continue to exist long after him — wealth inequality and the exploitation we all face in the workforce. Cassius′ journey up the corporate ladder and beyond the realm of all that is sane addresses the mutated, morphed, inhumane class issues we all seem to have accepted as ″modern life,” and the film′s underlying rage comes from the simple fact that we shouldn′t accept that people have to work back-breaking, soul-destroying jobs to barely make ends meet.

In this, the film achieves what many leftist thinkers and even some activists cannot. It distills the difficult, jargon-heavy books of Marx into their absolute essence — common sense. It shuts the mouths of professors and poli-sci geeks who insist that reading thousands of pages of theory is tantamount to belonging to a political movement. Seeing the everyday lives of workers juxtaposed against the elite is really all most people need to realize that we shouldn′t have to live like this, and that something should be done about it. That something can be organized labor movements or, you know, maybe a violent uprising. Pick your poison.

Of course, the impact of art and popular culture on politics is blown way out of proportion. J.K. Rowling′s epic Twitter clapbacks aren′t taking down the Republicans anytime soon, and the popular sentiment of ″well, at least we′ll get good art″ when Trump was elected was frankly tone-deaf and disgusting. But America is still so far gone from achieving class consciousness that anything, even a small-budget indie film that was lucky enough to get a wider release than most people would ever expect, helps. Art can′t change the structural inequalities built into our society, but the messages within that art can be a helpful call for action. “Sorry to Bother You” is the screeching loudspeaker that is making that call. We can all at least try to listen.

Nike: just don’t do it

What “real” protesting looks like

By Michelle Rajan
Contributing Writer

Nike recently announced Colin Kaepernick as the face of their “Just Do It” campaign. They released a black-and-white picture of his face with the words, “Believe in something. Even if it means sacrificing everything.” But what does a man who can’t even stand for our flag know about sacrifice?

> **“Rather than having to endure the pain of destroying your things, allow me to alleviate the burden and hold onto your apparel for you.”**

Kaepernick maintains that his protest has to do with police brutality, not a performative act of disrespect against our flag and country. This is absurd. Clearly not only does this man misunderstand the meaning of sacrifice but also the definition of disrespect.

For 12 years, every morning since pre-school, I stood with my hand on my heart as my class recited the pledge of allegiance, each word ingrained into our minds. Not once did we question the words we uttered nor should we. The entire class stood in unity, our eyes trained on the flag. Kaepernick has disrupted this order, inciting people to now question the very foundation of our country. He claims that he can’t stand for a country that allows for so many deaths of unarmed black Americans. Well if that’s true, I need only quote our president in response: “Maybe he should find a country that works better for him.”

Fortunately, many Americans recognized the foul underpinning of Nike’s decision. Almost immediately, Twitter was awash with posts that displayed destroyed Nike apparel. Some set their shoes on fire while others cut the logo from their own pair of Nike tube socks. While it is unfortunate that too many people had to sacrifice their belongings for the sake of an actual protest, I admire their determination.

I am here today to provide an easier way for the true patriots out there. I would like to offer what should be the only solution: rather than having to endure the pain of destroying your things, allow me to alleviate the burden and hold onto your apparel for you. That way you can rid your home of Nike’s vile logo without bearing the struggle of watching your money burn. So if you’re thinking about giving away any Nike products like for instance, and this is just of the top of my head, women’s training tights, specifically the small, maroon Nike Pro HyperWarm pair ... just do it.

> **“It is unfortunate that too many people had to sacrifice their belongings for the sake of an actual protest.”**

From the Editor’s Desk

Reflections on the first production of the year

By Chloe Gravereaux
Editor-in-Chief

“What time is it?”

“4:00 a.m.”

I sucked in a breath and turned to the faces in the room, ashen and exhausted, sporting early formations of dark circles. Our advisor, Sara Vigneri, was slumped on the red couch, having come straight from a family function. Our copy editor Tara had already left at 3:00 a.m. Matt and I were switching between pacing the floor in silence and sitting in the layout room, him much more outwardly calm than me. And stone-faced and gritting her teeth in the light from the Mac was Emily Drake, layout editor, who had spent the day designing every section plus an insert and training Ji, assistant layout editor. It was the first production of the year and we were already up far later than our predecessors, far later than I had ever been in my three years on the staff- and Emily had an eight a.m. in the morning.

Despite the hour, I was completely awake, in a white and staticy panic, my mind racing with everything I’d need to do differently next week but having nothing to offer to get us out of the situation now. I felt helpless.

After finally biting the bullet at 2:00 a.m. we dropped the freshman survival guide that I’d talked up with any administrator in favor of finishing layout on the rest of the paper- a decision made far too late to save anyone’s night. Everyone was silent, clearly disappointed but not fighting the process. We finally stumbled out of the office blurry eyed at 5:00 a.m.

After hiding out all of Wednesday heavy with defeat, I walked into the office on Thursday to meet my late-night crew once again and to face the inevitable- I’d failed. Now what?

Expecting demands of apologies or explanations, I instead found us sharing our struggles to stay awake the next day, and laughing at Matt’s ability to go through a 6:00 a.m. workout on NO SLEEP. I suddenly found Matt, Emily, Sara and I sitting around the whiteboard brainstorming ideas and writing an outline in different colors on what we’d need to ask the section editors at our staff meetings that night, how to best get what we needed from them, who would take turns speaking and on what.

> **“I walked into the office on Thursday to meet my late-night crew once again and to face the inevitable- I’d failed. Now what?”**

No one was upset.

They just wanted to help.

That night at our weekly staff meeting, Matt, Emily and I each took turns speaking. I went first, took a deep breath, and admitted what I hadn’t wanted to.

“There’s no way to sugar-coat this. Matt, Emily, Sara and I were in the office until 5:00 a.m.”

The rest of the editors grew quiet. Matt went on to speak about what he’d need form everyone, just as we planned, before dissolving into groups, working with each section to better divide up responsibilities.

And it worked.

... Sort of. News is a mess, as usual, but it’s 8:00 p.m. and we have two sections (almost!) done.

As I look around the room, laptop on my legs, watching Brooke, Lauren, Sydney and Emily laugh as they eat out of Mule Express boxes, laptops open, commenting on their writers articles, clicking away at their keys, I suddenly see the team I have before me, who continue to give their all as editors.

I’m realizing I needed to fail. I needed to take that step back and re-evaluate my plans for this year. I can’t build off of last year with a staff of mostly new writers. And I need to remind myself what my strengths are, and what others’ strengths are, and play to those. But ultimately, I’ve learned what amazing people make up this team, and who every day make this paper possible. And there’s going to be speed bumps ahead, that’s for sure, but there’s no one else I’d rather have at my side. To the Editorial Board: it’s going to be a great year ahead of us.

Football moves to 2-0 under Milne

Game winning FG earns Todd Spirt Special Teams Player of the Week

By Max Shapiro
Sports Editor

The Nate Milne era is off to a 2-0 start, following the team's overtime walk-off 37-34 win at Susquehanna. After a season opening win over Dickinson last weekend, the Mules traveled to Susquehanna for what turned out to be an offensive shootout against the River Hawks who sat just outside the D3football.com Top 25 after their win against Johns Hopkins last week.

Sophomore running back James Diggs stayed hot, rushing for a game-high 82 yards and two scores, including a 27-yard touchdown run in the first quarter that opened scoring for the team. The Mules made it 14-0 on its next possession when sophomore quarterback Michael Hnatkowsky hit junior Ryan Curtiss for a 33-yard score.

The teams traded TDs early in the third quarter, with freshman Gabe Robles taking the ensuing kickoff after Susquehanna's score 49 yards to set up Diggs' second TD. The Mules held a 34-13 lead at one point in the third quarter, but Susquehanna roared back with 21 unanswered points to force overtime.

The River Hawks stalled on their lone OT possession after two long penalties pushed them back to midfield. After forcing a 42 yard field goal miss, the Mules needed only three plays to set up game winner, including a seven-yard completion from Hnatkowsky to junior Max Kirin. Junior kicker Todd Spirt nailed his third field goal of the game, a 37-yarder, to seal the win for the squad.

As a result of the win, his three field goals and four extra points, Spirt was named Centennial Conference special teams player of the week for the third time in his career. His 13 points on the day increased Spirt's career total to 129, moving him into fourth place on the Mules' all-time scoring list.

Following the win, the team also received votes in both Division III national polls; 19 points in the American Football Coaches Association poll and 14 in the D3football.com rankings.

The Mules are one of four Centennial Conference teams recognized in the D3football.com Week 3 poll. Franklin & Marshall is ranked 24th, and Johns Hopkins (17) and Susquehanna (13) also received votes this week. The team will look to keep rolling this weekend as they take on Juniata at home on Sept. 22 in the first of a two game homestand.

Todd Spirt '20 kicked a game-winning 37-yard field goal in overtime to beat Susquehanna.

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Volleyball bounces back after two losses

By Alex Blum
Contributing Writer

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Volleyball's lone win during their tri-match came against SUNY Cortland, winning three sets to one.

As the Buttermaker Tournament concluded and the Mules came into the week on a roll, winning their last four games, morale was high and the desire to keep the streak alive was evident. The team entered Memorial Hall to match up against Carnegie Mellon University and begin their first of three games scheduled for the weekend. With a back-to-back against Franklin & Marshall (F&M)and SUNY Cortland due up the next day, the crew was up for the challenge and ready to repeat last week's success.

The Carnegie Mellon Scottish Terriers came into Memorial Hall with a 3-5 record and looking to get back on track. The Terriers certainly proved to be no easy contest. After capturing the first set 26-24, the Mules went on to give up the next two sets and in the competitive fourth set, the Mules pulled away for a 25-23 victory with a clutch set-ending kill from Kelly Tornetta '19, assisted by Shannon Hubert '19. To start the fifth and final set, the Mules took a commanding 5-2 lead, however, the Scottish Terriers were not ready to back down. Before long, they were back in the game bringing it to a 12-12 tie, making it tight until the end when the Scottish Terriers ultimately pulled out with a 16-14 victory over the Mules. "I have no regrets. That was one of the toughest games and their team is one of the best. The game just didn't go our way," said Madison Forrest '20, a middle blocker for the Mules.

Coming off the loss the previous day, the Mules looked to get back on track with back-to-back games against F&M and SUNY Cortland. The 5-3 F&M Diplomats, a fellow member of the Centennial Conference, came into Saturday's matchup owning a streak of their own, winning their previous four games after starting the season 1-3. After cruising through the first set with a dominant performance winning 25-11, the Mules struggled to keep that same level of control. The next three sets went in favor of the Diplomats. Amid those three difficult sets Coach Amanda Krampf could be heard on the bench telling her group, Forrest recalled, "We're a great team and we shouldn't let people come into our house and play us like this, we need to hold ourselves to a higher standard."

The team was 0-2 on the week and after coming into the week a strong 8-1, the squad now fell to 8-3. However, the Mules flipped the script and got back into form when it was time face off against the SUNY Cortland Red Dragons. The Mules fell behind in the first set losing 25-22, but following that they didn't look back. The Mules went on to steal the next three sets straight, winning 25-13, 25-21, 25-21 as Tornetta led the way with 12 kills and three aces, Hubert with 45 assists, and Maya Illovsky '21, with 22 digs. "It was a mentality switch. We couldn't end the weekend 0-3; we needed to end on a high note and carry momentum into the following and weekend," Forrest said.

The Mules may have had a rough weekend, but they resume play Wednesday Sept. 19 against the Haverford Fords, another Centennial Conference opponent, and they are eager to get back in the win column and boost their record to an impressive 10-3.

from **Field Hockey** page 12

team's four losses this season, three have come by just a goal. A bright spot in the loss was junior Jordan Segrave's season-high five saves.

The Mules are hoping to continue their success this upcoming week. On Wednesday, Sept. 19, The Mules will be taking on Haverford at Scotty Wood Stadium. This game will be The Fords conference opener, coming into the matchup with a 4-1 out-of-conference record. Their only loss came at the hands of Rowan, the #15 ranked team in the country. Next on the schedule, the Muhlenberg Women's Field Hockey team will be traveling to Dickinson on Sept. 22. The Red Devil's opened conference play last weekend against Swarthmore, with a commanding 3-1 victory.

They opened up against Franklin & Marshall, who prior to the matchup, had an undefeated record.

After defeating such a formidable Franklin & Marshall field hockey squad, The Mules will go into the upcoming week with confidence. Though they're a young squad, they've displayed lots of raw talent. As they continue to build chemistry and put more pieces together, they expect to develop into a fierce opponent, sooner rather than later.

Tough week for Men's Soccer

Team comes away with a loss and a draw in two hard-fought overtime games

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Jordan Cimring '20 scored the first goal against Drew University in what would eventually be a 3-2 loss.

By Noah Sellinger
Contributing Writer

Despite two good efforts, the Muhlenberg men's soccer team was unable to come away with a win this week. After blowing a 2-0 lead to lose 3-2 to Drew in double overtime on Wednesday, the Mules came back with a sparkling defensive effort, but still only managed to draw Franklin & Marshall 0-0 in their opening Centennial Conference match.

Just 37 seconds into the match against Drew, junior right back Jordan Cimring vaulted the Mules in front with a left-footed curling effort from outside the box. It was the first career goal for Cimring. They capitalized again in the first half when Matt Athanas-Linden '20 sent a ball in to Kevin Hagan '20 who ripped the ball into the back of the net to put the Mules up 2-0.

Despite holding the 2-0 midway into the second half, Drew tallied two quick goals to send the game into overtime, where they capped off the comeback with a goal just 87 seconds into the second overtime period.

In their second game of the week the Mules battled #13 ranked Franklin & Marshall in a hard fought defensive battle. Both units remained tactically sound the entire match, with Mules goalie Jordan Schreer '19 saving both of F&M's only shots on goal to keep his team in the game. With neither side able to generate an offensive spark, the match went into double overtime and all the way to the final whistle at 0-0.

Though they didn't get the full three points, drawing a tough opponent in their first conference match wasn't the worst result for the team. "It was a great game overall and even though we didn't convert some of our opportunities I thought we fought hard and a draw is still a good result," said sophomore Mark Winter.

The squad will look to get back on a winning track at home on Sept. 19 against DeSales and away on Sept. 22 at Swarthmore.

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from **Women's Soccer** page 12

was when? The Mules already had two clean sheets in their first two games of the season after impressive performances by both the defense and Juliano.

In the 73rd minute, with the Mules shutout still in tact, Franklin & Marshall set up for a corner kick. The cross sliced a ball into the middle of the goalie box. Juliano stood her ground blocking a header attempt by F&M forward Lauren Kranis '20.

The Mules added some insurance off of Kayleigh Durnings '22 right foot when she received a through ball from Karolyn Kawa '20 and had the F&M goalie one-on-one. Durning curved a ground ball right past the sliding keeper for her first career goal. 2-0.

"It was a really intense game and I was proud to see how focused we stayed and it payed off when scored that second goal later on in the second half," said Juliano.

The final seconds ticked off the clock and Muhlenberg rushed off the field.

"The important thing is that there are 10 players who give their all in front of me. I believe that defense starts from the forwards and works it way back so anytime I get a shutout it's absolutely a whole team effort," she began humbly. "I think hard work and confidence within myself and the team is what makes me a successful goalkeeper. Anytime we are up or tied and I can make a big save or come off the field with a clean sheet I take pride in being able to give that to my team"

Mules first year head coach Kelly Wakeman stressed the importance of a solid goalie to a soccer program. "A goalkeeper is the foundation to building a great team. Libby is a competitor, she welcomes the pressure of the position and exhibits the leadership that we need from her. Technically she has great hands, good reflexes, solid range in net, and she is tough as nails."

For O'Brien, the win had a sweet sense of revenge. "We didn't do as well against F&M as we did this year. A team goal we have is to have a different season than our season last year and by winning this game 2-0 it is a step towards that goal," said O'Brien.

The offense clicking was also key against the Centennial Conference foe. "Our offense did a much better job creating opportunities. I think it really had to do with the movement off the ball we had last game," said midfielder Hannah Merlo '21, one of the programs top playmakers.

> **"I believe that defense starts from the forwards and works it way back so anytime I get a shutout it's absolutely a whole team effort."**

Wakeman also was pleased with the offensive success she saw on the field. "We saw some nice combinations from players who are still adjusting to new personel or a new position. The team had some fantastic attacking energy, which we have been trying to cultivate in practice"

"This game gave us encouragement and momentum to move on and play as well as we did against F&M in other games," added Merlo.

O'Brien agreed. "We know that after playing as well as we did in this game that we can play well and compete against anyone in our conference."

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THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Field hockey ends F&M's perfect season

By Brandon Kossin
Contributing Writer

On Sept. 15, the Muhlenberg women's field hockey team began Centennial Conference play at Scotty Wood Stadium. They opened up against Franklin & Marshall, who prior to the matchup, had an undefeated record of 5 – 0 was ranked number five in the country. But upon facing the Mules, the Diplomats lost the match, and their perfect season, as the Mules began their conference schedule off with a win by a score of 1-0. The team's only goal was scored by senior Stephi Rydgren, and assisted on by freshman Megan Webber.

On Sept. 11 against King's, the team suffered their fourth consecutive out-of-conference defeat to start the season, even after a second half rall. After the Monarchs struck first early in the second half, the Mules equalized just minutes later on a goal from Webber. The goal, which found its way just inside the left-post, marked her second goal of the season.

King's retook the lead with just over seven minutes remaining, and then survived two penalty corners and a shot on goal in the final moments to hold off The Mules. Of the

see **Field Hockey** page 12

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Juliano fills out mantle

Mules goalie racks up 10th career shutout while team starts Conference play strong

By Matt Riebesell
Managing Editor

The Mules started with the ball in the second half of their first Centennial Conference matchup this season. Now the contests mattered, as the in-conference games are the only games which have bearing on the Centennial make the playoffs.

For a fan of the Lady Mules, this game was a lot of the same.

The score was 0-0. Neither the Mules nor the Diplomats of Franklin & Marshall had any impressive looks on net in the first half on what seemed to be the first sunny day in all of September.

The 2017 Mules finished with a 5-8-4 record. Seven of the 17 matches went into overtime. In the seven overtime games, none resulted in a win. Four ties and three losses.

Cue up 2018: The Mules season is off to a good start. Not great, but not bad either: 2-2-1. The defense was still the team's bread and butter, and scoring was a question mark. On Saturday Sept. 15th both teams entered Centennial Conference play with a clean slate.

"The intensity of conference play is definitely way higher because we know each of these games determine our playoff chance," said Makenzie O'Brien '19, a captain and forward of the 2018 squad. "Not only during games but at practices we know that we need to be working hard because all of our opponents are too."

The ref blew his whistle and signaled for the second half to begin.

"At halftime coach talked about switching the point of attack and following our shots," O'Brien explained. The plan worked to perfection.

Two and a half minutes into the new half, Mules forward Danni Steigerwald '20 settled a cross, moving the ball down the left side of the pitch. She took a touch on her left foot before tapping it back to her right. She ripped a cross... Or a shot?

O'Brien crashed towards the far post - taking the advice of her coach looking for a second chance - but over ran the ball by a step and a half. As the scrum within the 18 yard box played out, the ball trickled into the goal untouched. Steigerwald was credited with the goal, her first of the season.

"It felt good to find the back of the net early on in the second half," said Mules goalkeeper Libby Juliano '20.

For the next 30 minutes the two teams traded scoring opportunities all while Juliano was working on engraving her own name in record books. Juliano entered the game with nine career shutouts. Earning her 10th was inevitable, but the question

see **Women's Soccer** page 11

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Libby Juliano '20 only had to make one save to earn her tenth career clean sheet against Franklin & Marshall.

Coming up this week in
SPORTS

Football	Men's Soccer	Volleyball	Field Hockey
Muhlenberg vs Juniatas	Muhlenberg vs Swarthmore	Muhlenberg vs Dickinson	Muhlenberg vs Dickinson
Sat, Sept. 22 @ 1:00 PM	Sat, Sept. 22 @ 7:00 PM	Sat, Sept. 22 @ 3:00 PM	Sat, Sept. 22 @ 12:00 PM
Scotty Wood Stadium	Swarthmore, PA	Charlisle, PA	Charlisle, PA

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Read inside:

Irish playwrite Marina Carr dazzles students and staff at Living Writers

read more on 5

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NEWS

Dr. Erika Bagley, assistant professor of developmental psychology, discusses how loneliness among especially first-year students can be indicative of a deeper psychological issue or problem.

read more on 3

ARTS & CULTURE

Alumni, professors and students gathered together at the Muhlenberg Alumni Art show, where past passions are revisited and new paths are explored on campus.

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OP/ED

Will Wamser takes on the biggest news story of his career and he has had a big long career, and this Zumba story will knock over your socks.

read more on 9

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

SPORTS

Volleyball dig themselves out of a hole after dropping out of the Centennial Conference contest after winning two games.

read more on 10

Tal captivates audiences of all ages

"I learned that you can still have fun, childlike moments even as an adult."

read on 6

Photo Courtesy of Ken Eck

Flyers targeting faculty member prompt dialogue about reproductive rights

By Sydney Coplin
News Editor

Alumni weekend was supposed to be a time for celebration, nostalgia and for appreciating everyone in the community from both the past and present, but the festivities were interrupted when flyers attacking a Muhlenberg professor were splattered over dozens of cars.

> **"It takes a lot of us to stand up for the rights of other people."**

"I heard about the flyer through a colleague of mine, who was here for Alumni Week," said Kate Ranieri, Assistant Professor of Media & Communication, who was personally attacked on the flyer. "My initial reaction was a nervous laugh, then I got really upset about what was going on. I was very disturbed."

President Williams sent out an email describing the incident in general terms on Monday morning.

"Over the weekend a member of our community was the target of a personal attack in the form of a flyer distributed on and around campus," the email read.

"These flyers, which were intended to negatively impact the personal and professional life of one of our community members, were not only antithetical to our community's values, but to the very foundation of democracy. We are not a community nor a country where we force our views upon the lives of others. Rather we embrace the advantages of a diverse milieu that offers a wide variety of cultures, faiths and opinion as a guide to a better campus, a better country and a better world," said Williams.

The actual content of the highlighter-yellow flyers began with "Attention Friends & Alums of Muhlenberg College" centered at the top, and down the page it consisted of derogatory rhetoric about Ranieri's activism for women's rights, specifically her pro-choice stance. One photo of her included on the flyer falsely represented her with the caption "Kate Ranieri cheering

see **Ranieri** page 4

Rethinking the Student Code of Conduct

By Laura Schwarz
Contributing Writer

Muhlenberg's Code of Conduct is a disciplinary outline covering every offense from theft to physical violence, and at 24 pages long, the document is both detailed and expansive.

Last April, The Office of Judicial Affairs made a variety of changes to the document, the goal being to simplify the language so that, as Assistant Dean of Students and Judicial Officer Jane Schubert explains, "it now reads less legalistic in terms our students can easily embrace."

In order to understand what Muhlenberg students wanted from the Code, four focus groups were gathered to discuss the topics of "alcohol, drugs, property, community and interpersonal relationships."

"Select members from the following groups were invited to participate: students involved in athletics or fraternity/sorority life, students that have gone through the judicial process that have had both positive and less than positive experiences, two students from each class year [and] faculty and staff members," said Dean Schubert. The variation in the focus groups reflect the diversity and "community focused language" that Dean Schubert sought to achieve in the new Code of Conduct.

One of the main changes made to the document is the name of the Code itself. Until last year, the document was named the "Social Code" while it is now called the "Student Code of Conduct."

"The new language was changed to reflect the College′s expectations of community members which are Care for Self, Care for Others, Care for Property and Care for Community," explains Dean Schubert.

The second major change made was the insertion of these "Care" terms into the document to introduce lists of "possible violations" that could occur. For example, under "Care for Others" is listed "Physical Violence," "Harassment," "Hazing" and "Weapons." The terms beginning with "care" replace the terms "Offenses Against Persons," "Offenses Against Property" and "Offenses Against the Community" from the old code.

The change in language from "offenses" to "care" seems to be the administration's effort to make the language of the Code more positive and less "legalis-

see **Code of Conduct** page 4

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

Monday, September 17
Vandalism - 10:57 a.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of vandalism in the bathroom. Housekeeping was notified to clean the area. There are no suspects at this time.

Sick Visitor - 2:03 p.m.
In Seegers Union, there was a report of a sick visitor. The individual was spoken to and there was no further incident.

Fire Alarm - 11:57 p.m.
In Walz Hall, there was a report of a fire alarm sounding due to smoke from a microwave. The system was silenced and reset.

Tuesday, September 18
Found Item - 2:44 p.m.
A ring was found in the Courts and was placed in the lost and found locker.

Wednesday, September 19
There were no campus safety notes reported on this day.

Thursday, September 20
Smoke - 6:21 a.m.
In the Village, there was a report of smoke. The smoke turned out to be shower steam.

Odor Investigation - 10:22 p.m.
In Walz Hall, there was a report of the smell of marijuana. The area was check, but nothing was found.

Friday, September 21
Fire Alarm - 7:16 a.m.
In Trexler Library, there was a report of a fire alarm sounding due to maintenance work in the area. The system was silenced and reset.

Harassment - 11:00 a.m.
In East Hall, there was a report of harassment. Individuals were spoken to and the investigation is to continue.

Sick student - 11:32 a.m.
In the Life Sports Center, there was a report of a sick student. Muhlenberg EMS responded and the student was transported to Student Health Services.

Disorderly Conduct -10:24 p.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of disorderly conduct. Students were identified and spoken to. There was no further incident.

Saturday, September 22
Sick Student - 1:11 a.m.
On North 23rd Street, there was a report of a sick student. Allentown EMA responded and transported the student to hospital.

Fire Alarm - 10:23 a.m.
In the Phi Mu house, there was a report of a fire alarm sounding due to cooking. The system was silenced and reset.

Student Conduct - 9:09 p.m.
At Albright and Chew, there was a report of students on a roof. The students were advised to come down and complied.

Sunday, September 23
Noise complaint - 12:33 a.m.
At Leh and Liberty, there was a report of a noise violation. The residents were spoken to and the area was cleared. There was no further incident.

Theft - 2:40 a.m.
In Seegers Union, there was a report of theft and vandalism of signs. The individuals were identified and referred to the Dean of Students. The signs were returned.

Fire alarm - 11:08 p.m.
On North 23rd Street, there was a report of a fire alarm sounding due to steam from a shower. The system was silenced and reset. Plant Operations was notified to check the vents.

Fall Harvest BBQ

OCTOBER 3rd // 11:30AM - 2:00PM
PARENTS PLAZA

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Shredded BBQ Chicken Sandwich
Portobello & Goat Cheese Burger
House made Potato Chips | House made Pickles
Butternut Squash & Sweet Potato Soup
Pumpkin Cheesecake | Apple Cider Donuts

dining dollars, berg bucks, cash, credit will be accepted

New honors program announced for future pre-health students

By Sarah Dolan
Contributing Writer

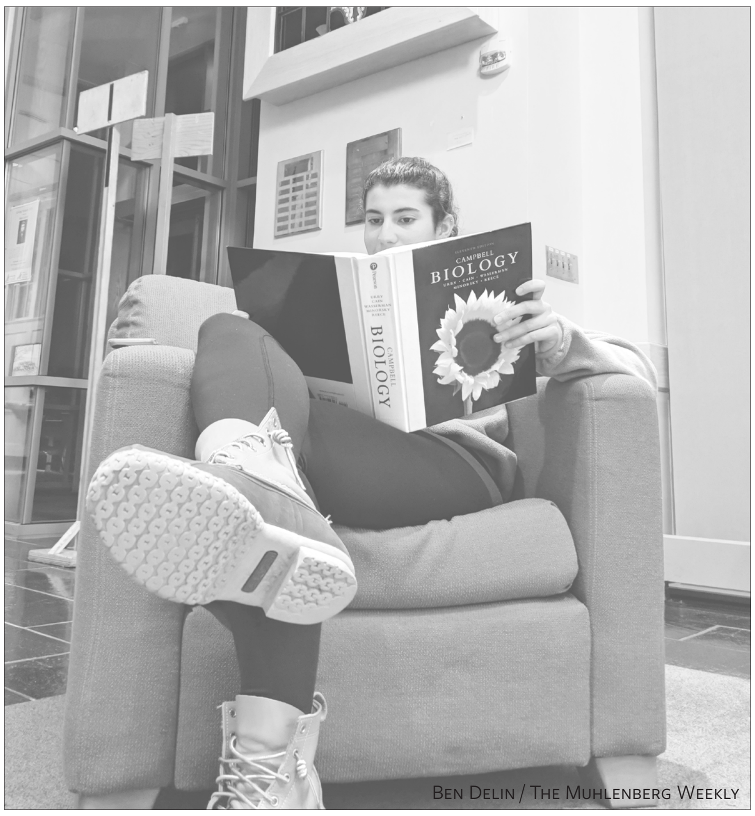
The Shankweiler Scholars Program will be offered next fall to first-year students on the pre-health track. Over the course of four years, scholars will enroll in program-specific seminars, complete a core curriculum and participate in lectures regarding medicine and society.

Any first-year student planning to pursue the pre-health track is eligible to apply. Students planning to major in the humanities, social sciences or natural sciences are especially well-suited for the program. "[Medical schools] love it when somebody's taken all the required science courses…but they're an English major," said Dr. Bruce Anderson, Dean of Academic Life. "That's what they really want. They want people who can relate to their patients in different ways."

Scholars will receive annual merit-based scholarships of $5,000, in addition to an edge on the competition when applying to medical school. "One intent of the Shankweiler Scholars is to get them to come here and have all these experiences so they can be well-educated and become more competitive when they actually apply for medical school, dental school, things like that," Anderson explained. "We're hoping that [this program] will be another way for medical schools to start to identify that Muhlenberg students are really good. We're really trying to see if we can get some more connections with medical schools and ultimately find better placements for our students."

The program is named not only for the science building, but for 1921 graduate Dr. John Shankweiler, a former biology professor and one of the pillars of the Muhlenberg science department. "He had the reputation that if a student wanted to go to Temple, he would pick up the phone and tell Temple, 'You need to take this person,' and they would," Anderson noted. "He had those relationships built up, and that's the kind of reputation we want to get back to."

While current pre-health students won't be able to enroll in this program, they can still see the benefits that future scholars will enjoy. "The pre-med requirements and competition can be overwhelming and many students abandon this track. I think this program will lead to greater retention of students that declare pre-med when entering college," said Taylor Zuckerman '19, a pre-physician's assistant student. "I think it will give its members necessary experience that medical schools are looking for."



Ben Delin / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Above, a student kicks back with a biology textbook in the lobby of New Science Building.

The vote that counts

The importance of voting in the midterm elections

By Johannah Wai
Copy Editor

It's four in the afternoon and you're in your dorm room just starting your psychology of millennials essay that's due at midnight, when someone knocks on your door and hands you a piece of paper. 'Pennsylvania Voter Registration Application' it says. You remember midterm elections are coming up but you don't really know what those words mean so you close the door and you go back to your essay. But at the back of your mind you're wondering, what are the midterm elections and why should I bother voting? And why did I never take an intro to gov class?

The midterm elections occur every four years, halfway between presidential elections. Elections for all 435 seats in the House of Representatives occur every two years, while only one-third of the Senate is up for election because members of the Senate serve staggered six-year terms. Currently, the Republican Party holds the majority in both the House of Representatives and the Senate with 51 seats needed for control of the Senate and 218 needed for the House.

In the Pennsylvania midterms, Democrat Bob Casey and Republican Lou Barletta are running for the Senate while Democrat Susan Wild and Republican Marty Nothstein are running for the 7th District House seat. These are the people Muhlenberg students will be voting for, if they decide to cast their ballot on campus.

Voter turnout for elections that aren't presidential are often disappointing, but people seem to be more engaged with this year's midterms than they usually are according to the Pew Research Centre. Turnout has surged in the states that have held their congressional primaries with a four percent increase (six percent of registered voters to 10.1 percent) in ballots cast for the Democratic House primaries and a 0.9 percent increase (from seven percent to 7.9 percent) for the Republican House primaries. This spike in voter participation is indicative of the high stakes in this upcoming election.

The deadline to register to vote is Oct. 9. The congressional elections will be held on Nov. 6.

The outcome of the election will be significant for both parties, desperate to win control of Congress. With a Democrat majority in the Senate, Judge Kavanaugh could be blocked from confirmation, which would be significant for many issues such as women's rights as the President has vowed to appoint justices who would overturn Roe V. Wade. Kavanaugh has also been known to be gun friendly, having dissented against a majority ruling that upheld a ban that applied to semi-automatic rifles in DC. If Republicans maintain control of Congress, some of President Trump's key legislative agendas, like repealing the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), could be revived. However, with a Democrat majority, legislation against the party's agendas can be prevented from passing. Perhaps most importantly, if the Democrats were to gain a House majority, it would allow them to launch impeachment proceedings against the President.

Younger generations make up a majority of the electorate, but they are not the majority of those actually voting, with those aged 18 to 35 continuing to have the lowest voter turnout of any age group. "Every vote counts" is an old and tired expression but with every election it rings truer and louder.

In March, Pennsylvania held a special election for a seat in the House of Representatives with Democrat Conor Lamb winning by only 750 votes in a Republican-held district. This was largely seen as a herald for the midterms, with both parties vying for control of Congress, it's likely the results will be just as close as the special election. With 18 seats in the House being contended for in Pennsylvania, the outcome of major key policies could very well depend on us as a generation and our decision to be active or passive participants in our future.

Navigating loneliness in college

By Emma Newman
Contributing Writer

There's a lot of things you feel coming into college and even throughout it, one of the main things, for many, is loneliness. We are primed to expect to feel lonely, warned about it even, when we first come to college. Eventually you'll meet "your people" and find the clubs you belong in and feel less lonely, but that's not always the case; even if you do begin to have that traditional, perfect college experience, it doesn't always eliminate that feeling of loneliness.

Loneliness is not something that just goes away automatically. It takes time and effort to pull yourself out of that feeling, which is not easy whatsoever. By understanding loneliness and how it affects us, can we better manage feeling lonely? How do we pull ourselves out of that state of mind? If you don't deal with your feelings of loneliness, how likely are you to develop symptoms of other mental illnesses?

I interviewed Dr. Erika Bagley, assistant professor of developmental psychology at Muhlenberg, to get a deeper understanding of loneliness.

"I would say part of the reason loneliness might be more prevalent for first year students, is because they have to learn how to operate in a whole new context," says Dr. Bagley.

We typically come to college at the ages of 17 and 18 which, in the grand scheme of things, is extremely young. You have decided on a college to commit to for the next four or so years of your life and when you get there there's really not the type of hand holding that you have had for those first 17 years of your life.

It's a hard transition and when you make that transition you're forced to start completely new and go out and find not only what you're interested in but also like-minded people who share those interests. Dr. Bagley mentions how even though this is a positive change, it's still a change that you have to navigate.

When talking about loneliness, yes, it can be temporary due to this big change, but you shouldn't rule out the possibility of other mental illnesses creeping their way in. For a bit of time loneliness can be easily resolved, but that's not always the case.

"Prior research has shown that feelings of loneliness are a predictor of depression. Interestingly, other work (Zawadzki et al, 2013) suggests that anxiety is important in this relationship," explains Dr. Bagley.

Sure, loneliness can be a stand alone feeling that doesn't last a while, but it does have the potential to lead to depression.

There are a couple of ways in which loneliness can lead into depression. First, it's loneliness by yourself. You're stuck in this bad place that you feel as though you can't escape and

see **Loneliness** page 4

Muhlenberg holds first tailgate event with alcohol, thanks to revised policy

Ben Delin / The Muhlenberg Weekly

President Williams poses with former Muhlenberg students.

By Shan Jameson
Contributing Writer

In accordance with Muhlenberg's updated alcohol policy, the college held its first Tailgate Program for students and visiting alumni on Saturday, Sept. 22 on the practice field.

With a petting zoo, a walking magician, student performances, inflatables and the football homecoming tailgate, there were plenty of options for entertainment, including alcohol for those over the age of 21.

The student alcohol policy was updated this semester with the goal of giving students the option to indulge in campus social activities with alcohol. The college also developed an easier procedure for student groups to request a hosted event with alcohol with the Application to Serve Alcohol form.

Muhlenberg is not a dry school--it complies with federal, state and local laws governing alcohol consumption. Muhlenberg's alcohol policy states that students over the age of 21 are legally permitted to drink on campus in the privacy of their rooms. However, the city regulations in Allentown do not allow open containers of alcohol in public places even if you are old enough to drink. Open containers are only allowed at school-run social events, such as the tailgate.

At Saturday's tailgate, students over the age of 21 were allowed to bring unopened beer (6-pack per person) or up to a standard wine bottle. The event was fenced in with security guards patrolling the premises and all students had to show their Berg ID upon entry. The tailgate was packed with free food for the students provided by the College, student organizations, the Muhlenberg pep band, inflatables, lawn games and alumni.

The event was well-attended by alumni with 450 in attendance, according to Diana Tirendi, Senior Associate Director of the Alumni Affairs office. However, the student body seemed to be lacking.

"Roughly 100 students out of 2200 in the student body went to the tailgate," said Ellen Lentine, Associate Director of Student Engagement.

"I wish the school started doing these types of social events earlier and marketed the event more because there were not as many students as I thought there might be," said Lily Glading-Dilorenzo, '19.

FROM **RANIERI** PAGE 1

women on to have an abortion!"

The flyer was also accompanied by a photo of Muhlenberg's Egner Chapel, possibly calling to attention the religious nature of the views of the perpetrators, but nevertheless inappropriate due to the fact that the Chapel, as Ranieri pointed out, is non-denominational.

Ranieri was the particular target of this pamphlet due to her activism for women's rights and her frequent volunteering at the Allentown's Women′s Center. Upon reviewing surveillance footage provided to her from Campus Safety, she was able to recognize and identify the five perpetrators immediately.

"They are people who are anti-choice protestors who frequent the Allentown Women's Center." explained Ranieri. "This is the first time that they've done something so widely public."

"It's clear that they were very strategic, very intentional," she added. "Not only did they do this here, but they did this in Easton."

Ranieri also emphasized the notion that the protestors are often "lurking, harassing women at the clinic."

This specific incident that occured at Muhlenberg is currently under an ongoing investigation by Campus Safety and the Allentown Police Department.

"I think that the college has been incredibly supportive, from the president to the provost and from colleagues across campus," said Ranieri.

She also emphasizes that there are important lessons to be learned.

"Fighting for women′s rights is an ongoing battle," explains Ranieri, who still takes an optimistic approach. "It takes a lot of us to stand up for the rights of other people; injustices should not be tolerated."

FROM **LONELINESS** PAGE 3

eventually this can develop into depressive symptoms. Second, there's a middle ground of anxiety, so instead of loneliness leading into depression it leads into symptoms of anxiety which then introduces feelings of depression. Then, due to its potential lead into depression, you tend to isolate yourself even further, which exacerbates those feelings. It's a snowball effect that your mind has that would ideally be stopped when you first feel like it's getting to the point of anxiety and/or depression.

Being alone and feeling lonely are not exactly the same thing and feeling alone doesn't mean that you're going to feel lonely. It's a blurry line at times and one that can be hard to differentiate for some. According to Dr. Bagley, "It is not something that can be objectively measured because it's about one's perception that there is a gap between what they are expecting out of social relationships and what they actually think they are experiencing."

So, a lot of the time it's all about your perception of your relationships. Whether or not you know it, you have expectations for what you want out of your relationships and when you don't get what you expected, be that with family, friends, or a significant other, you have these feelings of isolation and loneliness that start to creep in. As you continue those relationships and don't express how you feel and your expectations keep getting dashed nothing is going to change.

Dr. Bagley also talks about how somebody can be surrounded by a lot of people and still feel lonely. In any of my relationships, if I want to feel like I'm able to share a problem that's happening in my life and I can't do that? I'm not going to feel like I'm getting what I want out of that relationship and henceforth feel a sense of loneliness.

What are some coping mechanisms when you feel that sense of loneliness? "[One] coping strategy that might help is actually having more realistic beliefs about they expect out of relationships," says Dr. Bagley. She continues by saying, "[upon] arrival to college, they [specifically first-years] may have expectations of friendships that are built upon prior experiences."

It goes back to this idea of expectation versus reality. Coming into college you had established relationships back at home that were safe and hopefully provided you with what you needed and now you're in a whole new environment. You want what you had before, but you more than likely won't get that right away. You have to take time to develop those kinds of relationships and find the people who you can do that with. On the other hand, you also have to make sure your expectations are realistic because when they aren't that's when you'll feel the most lonely.

Overall, loneliness is a hard state to pull yourself out of. It's, of course doable, if you adjust your expectations or actively seek out what you're looking for, but it's a stage that most people go through in any situation. It's important to note that if you feel as though your loneliness is getting out of control or leading to symptoms of depression and/or anxiety that there are people on campus that you can talk to.

FROM **CODE OF CONDUCT** PAGE 1

tic." This wording change was prompted by the observation of an outside consultant, Chris Mulvihill from CJM Consulting, who was impressed by the amount of times he heard the word "care" used in the focus group.

"People at Muhlenberg really care about each other and the community they live in,″ noted Mulvihill.

While no actual content in the document was changed, the new language reflects the current values that Muhlenberg is striving to promote, as well as the changing values of society today. These changes are illustrated by the differences between the first paragraphs of the old and new Code.

In the old "Social Code" the document begins with the sentences, "College students are in the midst of making the final transition from adolescence to adulthood. They are striving for independence, hoping to prove to themselves and to others that they are capable of making good decisions and directing their own lives."

This portrayal of college students is in contrast with the new document, which starts off with the sentences, "Muhlenberg College is committed to the health, safety and success of all students. In addition, the College believes that diversity, in many forms and expressions, is essential to its educational mission and to its success as a community. Achieving our educational mission requires that we foster a campus environment that is safe and inclusive and allows for students to maximize their academic and personal potential."

The new focus on "diversity" and "inclusivity" displays a much different point of view than the older view of college students displayed in the old document.

The new changes to the Code are an important stepping stone for improving communication and understanding between students and administrators and for creating a college community that is both responsive and ethical; as Dean Schubert puts it, "focusing on the growth and development of the individual student, encouraging self-discipline and fostering a sense of respect for the rights of others."

“[Writing] is about getting from one full stop to the next. It is only afterwards that you know what it means.”

— Marina Carr

“Fabled Queen” Marina Carr visits campus

Renowned Irish playwright participates in Living Writers program

By Brooke Weber
Arts & Culture Editor

Cole Geissler / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Marina Carr answers student questions during a Living Writers session in Miller Forum.

It gets so quiet when Marina Carr talks, I’ve noticed. She speaks close into the microphone, her words crafting worlds in improvised sentences and we all lean forward just a little. We breathe, but we don’t murmur. We listen. Listen because we want to hear, we need to hear; she’s talking and it’s poetry, writing lines like those from her plays into the air before us. “I don’t think there’s a mother’s son or daughter born who isn’t suffering,” she muses in response to a student’s question, and my heart leaps up into my throat. She’s mapping humanity right here in Miller Forum, reminding us all of who we are.

This was just one of many events that took place on campus from Sept. 18 to 20 as part of the 2018 Living Writers series, a semester-long occasion that takes place every three years during which working writers spanning various genres come to campus, give readings and answer questions. This semester, renowned Irish playwright Marina Carr was the second Living Writers author to appear at ‘Berg (after poet Ada Limon visited earlier this month). Carr, perhaps best known for her 1998 play *By the Bog of Cats*... and other so-called “Midland Tragedies,” named for the rural region of Ireland where they take place, has been an artist-in-residence at Dublin’s famous Abbey Theatre, a professor at Trinity College, Princeton University and Villanova University and the recipient of many awards, including the Dublin Theatre Festival Best New Irish Play award and the Windham-Campbell prize. Carr currently lectures at Dublin City University and is a member of Aosdána, a prestigious Irish arts council.

For some students, including Emily Casey ’19, the Living Writers course was not their first introduction to Carr and her work.

“I first encountered Carr in Contemporary Irish Drama with Dr. Rosenwasser,” Casey said. “We read *By the Bog of Cats*..., which was featured in an anthology of Irish plays (including those by McPherson, McDonagh, O′Casey, Synge and Lady Gregory), and I was enamored with her. Her writing is haunting, as she creates jarring and sometimes violent images that remain in your head still for weeks to come ... I thought and still think that she is one of the best contemporary playwrights we have (and I think many people think the same). It was wild to have her come after reading her plays, to get to ask her questions about her work, to even just see her walking around campus.”

The night of Sept. 18 marked Carr’s first appearance at ‘Berg, when she attended a staged reading of her 1996 play *Portia Coughlan*, which centers around the fate of an Irishwoman, Portia, and those who surround her as she attempts to wade through her thirtieth birthday without the company of her dead twin brother, Gabriel, facing the pressures of motherhood and small-town drama along the way. Ashley Campbell ’19 brought this titular role to life, though she and the rest of the cast had a very limited amount of time to actually work together with the text.

“I was contacted over the summer by Matt Moore, whom I had previously worked with, to read for Portia. I was excited to be asked and thought it was an especially cool opportunity to be able to read it for the actual playwright,” said Campbell. “The process was really quick, only being about two rehearsals, but even in that time we seemed to have accomplished a lot. The play has so much depth, and Portia is a really complex woman that requires far more work than what two rehearsals grants. However, we spent a lot of time discussing character relationships, intentions and answering the myriad of questions the play leaves the audience hanging onto. It was also really wonderful to work with some students I’ve worked with before but also members of the Allentown community, as well as Muhlenberg professors, who I’ve had the chance to work with in other capacities, but not as fellow actors.”

Despite the limited rehearsal time, the performance of *Portia Coughlan* was heart-wrenching, hilarious and filled with surprises – even though I had read several of Carr’s plays before this reading, I can say that I loudly gasped more than once, frantically tapping the knee of my friend sitting next to me as I watched the plays’ events unfold with horror and fascination. That’s Carr’s gift, you see: she puts shocking revelations in the mouths of characters we’ve been trained to see as unreliable, uses language as a weapon you can feel in your gut. “Nothing is what you think it is. Nothing,” Carr assured her audience at the end of her final question and answer session. This could not ring more true within her own work.

Beyond this performance of *Portia Coughlan*, Carr’s few days on campus included events centered around the Living Writers program. Laura Santo ’20, a student in the Living Writers course, was ecstatic when she learned of the opportunities she would have to interact with Carr.

“[Carr] is by far one of the most famous Irish playwrights in the world, and on top of that, she is one of the few women who claim this title. Oftentimes in her work her female characters are working against the world that binds them. There′s something quite satisfying reading about a woman fighting against the laws and the patriarchy, because even if she fails, at least she fought,” Santo said. “In the course of the two days she was here, I tried to get as many experiences with Carr as possible. I first went to the staged reading of her play *Portia Coughlan*, which I had never read before, and found incredibly interesting and enjoyable. I was also fortunate enough to participate the next day at a small lunch with Carr, in which myself, a few other students and a few faculty members had the opportunity to ask specific questions about her work and her writings. It was incredibly illuminating to meet with her in such a small setting. Then, through the Living Writers course, I went to a Q&A for her play *Hecuba* (which is the play the Living Writers students had read) as well as a reading of her plays by herself.”

I was also fortunate enough to attend a lunch with Carr in addition to the Living Writers events. As a great admirer of her work, I was blown away by just how genuine she is. Her mind works quickly, crafting complex answers to even the simplest of questions and she’s eager to give thought to almost any inquiry, from opinions about theatre cultures to her family’s reaction to her work. She speaks softly but confidently, and her lilting accent lands every so often on a distinctly and delightfully Irish phrase.

She’s a genius, a revolutionary, and an awe-inspiring presence – but she’s also human, profoundly real and funny and reflective like the content of her plays. As Santo puts it, “She′s digging into questions most of us don′t face in our daily lives: what makes us human and what makes us alive? Furthermore, she writes with a feministic edge that′s just exciting. But ultimately, she′s a writer who is writing for the present. Her work is all relevant to issues that are happening now, and she is using her art form to break rules, experiment and to try new things. Living Writers is an important class because these writers, who are all currently writing, remind us that creating art isn’t just possible but achievable: if these people are creating every day, why can’t we?”

Don’t miss the rest of the Living Writers series, which continues on Oct. 10 with author Ben Lerner.

Tal brings magic and wonder to Muhlenberg

By Ellen Powers
Staff Writer

Following a spectacular run as part of Muhlenberg's Summer Music Theatre, the circus production *Tal: Beyond Imagination* was brought back to Muhlenberg for four performances over alumni weekend. Created and directed by Noah S. Dach with Atlas Circus Company, *Tal* became Muhlenberg's highest-grossing summer show. *Tal* blends elements of a typical circus performance with those of a play, putting different aerial, acrobatic and clown acts to a storyline. The cast was made up of current Muhlenberg students and Muhlenberg alumni, all of whom had their own act in the performance. The show follows the titular character of Tal, who is unhappy in her life without joy and imagination. Two clowns, The Eccentric and The Controller, find Tal and, with the help of a bright cast of characters, bring her into a much more exciting and magical adventure.

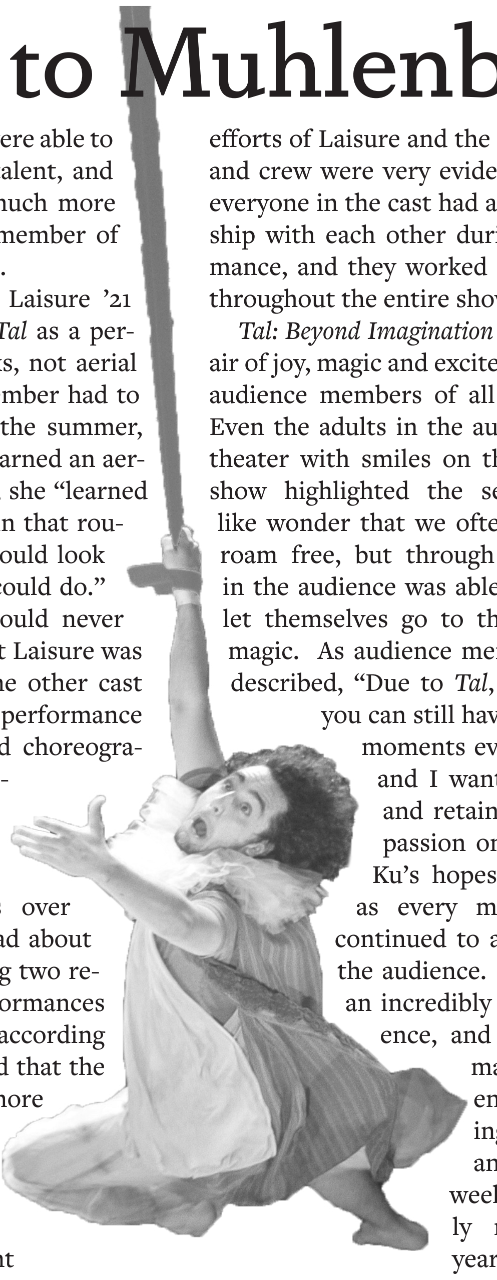
From the moment audience members walked into the Studio Theatre to see the show, they became immediately immersed in the world of Tal. The stage floor was painted with bright, rainbow array of colors and blue and green canopies were hanging from the ceiling. Around the catwalk were different chairs and stools that had been weaved into the bars of the catwalk. At the center of the stage was a desk and other seemingly random set pieces such as doors, a bookshelf and a chest. During the performance, almost all of these props ended up being used during different acts. The show was also staged in the round, creating an engaging and immersive experience for every audience member, no matter where they were in the theater.

> **"Due to Tal, I learned that you can still have fun, childlike moments even as an adult."**

Tal ran for about an hour, but in that short time, it was packed with continuous fun and magic. A pre-show helped to involve the audience in small dances and other fun activities, which immediately enthralled the audience, especially the several young children that were there. Once Tal had been brought into the world of imagination, the show became full of visually breathtaking stunts and tricks. From high-flying aerial stunts to acrobatic flips and rolls, the audience never stopped being entertained. One particularly exciting part of the performance involved a recurring ball that glowed in a rainbow of colors. As The Controller hoped to get more of these balls to juggle with Tal, the lights blacked out, illuminating only the glowing balls that were passed around between the cast members. The act was visually impressive and captivating, as was every piece of the performance. Each member of the cast was able to have an act or scene where they were able to display their individual talent, and it made the show that much more fantastic because every member of the cast was able to shine.

Cast member Andrea Laisure '21 began her journey with *Tal* as a performer of acrobatic tricks, not aerial acts, but when a cast member had to leave the show early in the summer, Laisure stepped in and learned an aerial act. As she explained, she "learned only the things that are in that routine, a few things that would look good and everyone else could do." An audience member would never have been able to tell that Laisure was not as experienced as the other cast members; through her performance and Dach's direction and choreography, her act blended seamlessly with the others. The cast had five weeks of rehearsal and five weeks of performances over the summer, and then had about a month off before having two rehearsals and four performances during this past week, according to Laisure. She explained that the rehearsal process "was more collaborative than [she] expected [...] he [Dach] had some choreography, but the way things worked, like movement patterns, tricks and flips, we all pitched in to come up with those things." All of the efforts of Laisure and the rest of the cast and crew were very evident on stage, as everyone in the cast had a great relationship with each other during the performance, and they worked extremely well throughout the entire show.

Tal: Beyond Imagination had a constant air of joy, magic and excitement that kept audience members of all ages engaged. Even the adults in the audience left the theater with smiles on their faces. The show highlighted the sense of childlike wonder that we often forget to let roam free, but through Tal, everyone in the audience was able to completely let themselves go to the wonder and magic. As audience member Ji Ku '20 described, "Due to *Tal*, I learned that you can still have fun, childlike moments even as an adult, and I want to remember and retain my childhood passion one more time." Ku's hopes were realized as every moment of *Tal* continued to awe and amaze the audience. The show was an incredibly unique experience, and it was full of magic that audiences both during the summer and over alumni weekend will surely remember for years to come.



Blake Peebles '19 soars through the air.
All Tal photos by Ken Eck.

Jamming with Michael Sarian and the Chabones

By Ethan Forrer
Staff Writer

Ever wondered what a septet would sound like if they played 12 different instruments or instrument styles in one song? Well, when it comes to Michael Sarian and The Chabones, it turns out that it sounds extremely good. Michael Sarian and The Chabones (which is Argentinian slang for "dudes") is a group of seven jazz instrumentalists lead by Michael Sarian, a Muhlenberg alum from the class of '08. Celebrating his ten-year anniversary of graduation and five-year anniversary of playing his first concert back here at Muhlenberg, Sarian rocked into the night for current and past students alike during Alumni weekend. With his band of six other talented and versatile musicians, Sarian demonstrated what the best jam session to ever naturally occur would be like when performed for a full audience.

One of the most noticeable aspects of the performance, and an important quality for a jazz musician to really have, was the personality Michael Sarian and The Chabones put into every part of the concert. Periodically throughout the performance, while someone else was doing a solo or they just weren't on for a section of the song, the four brass instrument players, including Sarian on the trumpet, would just take a brief walk off stage. The musicians smoothly switched from playing along with their musicians to resting and listening to the melodies surrounding them. This was probably the most obvious indication of the style or unique statement that Michael Sarian and The Chabones have for themselves and their music.

Jazz music itself is based in ideals of improvisation and self-expression, which are classily incorporated into jazz songs in the form of blank stanzas that are meant for some member of the band to do an impromptu solo before returning to the written music. In essence, this makes jazz music more of a perpetual state of a band warming up and playing what sounds good to them than a meticulously pre-planned performance.

From the name of the band to the way they handle themselves on stage to the very music they play, Michael Sarian and The Chabones performed freeing, personally pleasing music that just naturally occurs when every member of their septet is perfectly in-sync with one another. The songs that the band writes and performs tell a story by using the change of tones throughout the course of their music involving sections that consist of an escalating cacophony of each instrument playing its own solo performance simultaneously before jumping back into perfectly balanced synergetic unified sound.

Another major draw to their performance was the excessive range of the members of the band in terms of instruments and styles even within each song.

Cole Geissler / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Michael Sarian '08 jams on the trumpet with his band during Alumni weekend.

The different instruments that were used throughout the performance consisted of the pianist doing either keyboard or grand piano, the bass guitar player doing what he does best, the drummer changing between using regular drumsticks, swizzels, jazz brushes and even his hands, two of the three supporting brass players switching between saxophone and clarinet with one of them even pulling out a flute as well, the last of the supporting brass staying on the trombone and Sarian making full use of his trumpet and its mute. On its own, playing multiple instruments throughout a full concert isn't anything that special, but when a drummer has to change out his drum sticks one at a time while still keeping the rhythm going or when a brass player has to crouch down by his instrument rack so he can switch out his instrument without missing the next beat, you know something special is going on.

You can check out Michael Sarian and The Chabones' latest album that dropped last month, "León," as well as Michael Sarian and The Big Chabones, a 16 person big band alternative group, online and experience the story yourself.

Artist of the Week: Photographer Sofia Horenstein

Abigail Sherman / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Sofia Horenstein ‘19 poses with some of her collected photography work.

By Abigail Sherman
Contributing Writer

Studio art major Sofia Horenstein ‘19 loves to be busy. With a concentration in photography and starting science classes to continue her education this year, Horenstein already has plenty of work, but chooses to continue being an active student. Throughout her studies at Muhlenberg, she has been a part of photography club, Phi Mu, Alpha Phi Omega, Art Day and this year will be at Shape it Up as well. A fan of community service, Horenstein has volunteered at Jefferson Field Day, Relay for Life and Winter Spectacular.Horenstein also participated in a triathlon this past summer and continues to stay active by working out and doing yoga.

“It’s been pretty manageable because I personally love studio art; it’s more relaxing for me. I’ve never been stressed out by an art class.”

When asked how she balances her crazy schedule, Horenstein simply stated that, “It’s been pretty manageable because I personally love studio art; it’s more relaxing for me. I’ve never been stressed out by an art class. I’ll start doing it and it’s a relief. It’s not like I’m in the library seven hours studying for biology and rewriting all my notes. It’s more like ‘I have this huge project due and I’m in my studio for four hours painting and sanding.’ Or making a watercolor, or taking pictures.”

One reason for Horenstein’s success is that she has a large background in the arts. Drawing from as early as she can remember, Horenstein has participated in regular and advanced art classes, after-school camps that involved subjects such as jewelry-making and print-making and summer intensives; until she settled into photography in high school. When she was starting college, however, art classes weren’t a part of her new schedule moving forward.

“I wasn’t originally planning on taking an art class my first semester, but changed all my classes after one week. I couldn’t handle sciences at that point because I knew I wouldn’t do well, and I wanted to keep my G.P.A high, so I took a year or two so I could do the sciences correctly. I switched to taking care of my gen-eds, and one of those was an art class,” Horenstein explained.

The first art class that she took remains as one of the hardest she has ever been enrolled in: Analog Photography. “Analog Photography is very chemistry based; you can mess up really easily. You have to position the image how it’s going to be on the paper because it uses a projection machine. You have to enlarge it and set the margins to the right size. I remember working 12 hours for each project.” One of the benefits, however, of taking Analog Photography was that Horenstein met one of her mentors, Professor Lydia Panas.

“She took photos of me two times for her projects. The nice thing about modeling for people is that it really helps you learn. I’m also a portrait photographer. It was a good experience so I could see how she handles her models,” Horenstein said of Professor Panas. Panas, art advisor Emily Orzech and CUE (Culminating Undergraduate Experience) advisor Frederick Jones have led Horenstein towards the creation of her CUE project, which will combine many of the skills that she has learned at Muhlenberg.

Explaining her CUE project, Horenstein said, “I started out with the question: how do I represent the loneliness I felt growing up as an only child? That’s how I wanted to finish up my art experience, since I probably won’t be doing a ton of art postgrad. I wanted to do something really big, something I’ve never done before. I’m going to redecorate [a doll] house. I’m making the wallpapers myself, watercoloring and screen-printing them. They’re all going to be biological wallpapers. I have to redo it all, even lighting. It will be an installation in the CA at the end of the year. Some of the lights will be motion-activated. People will go up to it, and some of the lights will turn on, some of them will be off. It goes with the conceptual thing about the feeling of loneliness, not feeling like I’m in a complete house.”

“The nice thing about modeling for people is that it really helps you learn. ... it was a good experience so I could see how she handles her models.”

Look out for Sofia’s finished CUE project in the Center for the Arts, where it will be housed next semester.

Muhlenberg families flock to alumni art show

By Alana Noehrenberg
Contributing Writer

Among the many events occurring during alumni weekend, the reception for the Alumni Art Show was held in the Galleria Lobby of the Baker Center for the Arts on Saturday Sept. 22. The Alumni Art show celebrated and highlighted work by nine Muhlenberg alumni: Shari Bodofsky ’18, KeriLyn C. Burrows ’72, Hannah Cascio ’15, Jonathan Dale ’73, Scott Fruchter ’72, Joe Kloss ’68, Martha Knouss ’68, Heidi E. Reuter ’03 and Susan Sellers Stanewick ’68. Their works represented an array of media, including glass, wood, acrylic, linocut, digital print and watercolor.

The alumni artwork was neatly displayed across a white brick wall, with a small display case housing the wooden and glass pieces centered in front of the rest of the exhibit. People began to trickle into the reception at a little past three, and within fifteen minutes the show was well attended by students, professors and alumni crowding around the featured pieces.

Barbara Parente, a Muhlenberg alum (and former writer for the Weekly), was at Muhlenberg for her 50th class reunion. “I think that the artwork is varied and beautiful,” said Parente. “I am very proud of all of the talent of all the classes, particularly my class, sixty-eight,” she added as she gestured toward the watercolor painting of goats by Susan Sellers Stanewick ‘68. She had been admiring the painting for quite some time alongside a large group of fellow alumni from her class.

Reception attendees were as varied as the artwork themselves: Muhlenberg professors chatted about the artwork with alumni, recent graduates caught up with one another off to the side and pairs of students discussed the details of the pieces. Alumni here for their 50th class reunion pondered and conversed about the pieces alongside current Muhlenberg students. “Well, it has been wonderful to reconnect with people,” said Parente, “and it has also been a bonus to be able to talk to present students and to just hear about what they’re doing and to hear about their dreams. It’s nice to have that connection.”

A recent graduate, Shari Bodofsky ‘18, stood beaming next to her acrylic painting during most of the reception. “I have been here [the alumni art show] as a student so it’s really nice to be back here on the other side of it,” she said. “ I remember being a student and seeing everyone’s art and being like, ‘Wow, maybe someday I’ll put something in that.’”

Bodofsky started her piece when she was still a student at Muhlenberg, working on it for several months and then finishing it over the summer. When asked how her piece was selected, Bodofsky replied, “I still get the Muhlenberg alumni email, and, when I saw that they were having the show, I just sent in my piece and heard back from them.” Now her piece has been hung in the galleria, alongside the work of other talented alumni, for all to observe.

“It has also been a bonus to be able to talk to present students and to just hear about what they’re doing and to hear about their dreams.”

“Art’s always been a big part of my life,” Bodofsky said. “I’m actually a medical student now, and to me art is that opportunity to reflect and express everything in a way that makes sense to me, in a way that’s taking a moment out of life and stopping and thinking about it and being purposeful. I get a lot of response from people who are like ‘oh, you’re in medical school, you probably don’t have time to paint.’ Well, it’s a part of who I am and how I feel, so it’s important to me.”

Those who attended the reception admired not only the artwork, but the school′s commitment to its students as well. “I think it’s really cool that the school hosts alumni art, as it gives them a place where they definitely have a chance to show off their work,” remarked current Muhlenberg student Ryan Johnson ‘21. “It’s nice that the school still continues to show support to its students who have graduated.”

The alumni art show concluded on Sept. 24, but there are still several free exhibitions displayed in the Martin Art gallery for students, staff and the community to enjoy.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY/OPINIONS&EDITORIALS

Editorial

Posters and Protest

This past alumni weekend, many visitors returned to their cars to find a yellow paper sticking out of the door handle or tucked under their windshield wipers. These were pamphlets that targeted a Muhlenberg professor's work escorting women into a health center, which the pamphlet referred to as an abortion mill. It appears to be asking those who are anti-abortion to take action against a specific member of the college; but in addition to spreading untrue information, the organization does not exist at the address listed on the flyer. You can read more about the flyers and the professor's reaction on page 1.

Pro choice or anti-abortion, the behavior of the person or organization who left these flyers is inexcusable. Their actions do very little to support their cause. And in the case of this past weekend, their intentions actually backfired.

The professor named in the pamphlet and several faculty members took the flyers down while the rest of the faculty reached out to show their support. The incident is being investigated by Campus Safety and Allentown Police Department. The next day President Williams e-mailed the whole campus denouncing the actions of the perpetrator, calling them an "attack on a member of the Muhlenberg family." The Weekly stands in support of this professor and denounces the perpetrator.

Politics aside, defaming an individual on a flyer is not a form of protest. The flyers distributed this weekend showed nothing in ways of furthering an argument for a cause, but rather degraded those who oppose them or make them fearful- it just makes one side look like a bully.

This is also not the first time posters have served as a form of protest on this campus, and they didn't change anyone's mind then, either.

After Janaya Kahn, founder of Black Lives Matter Canada, spoke on campus as part of the Center For Ethics series of talks, posters labeled "Alternate Center for Ethics" appeared around campus, denouncing statistics on police brutality that Kahn had shared. These were quickly covered by more posters, created by a group of students, called "Truth to Power."

A similar case happened several years ago involving derogatory posts on Yik Yak. In addition to holding a town hall discussing the happenings, members of the community came together to have a discussion on equity and equality.

These actions didn't change anyone's beliefs; rather they brought people together in solidarity.

And the same thing happened this past weekend.

Protest by poster isn't going to change anyone's mind. At least not on Muhlenberg's campus.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

Gay in Allentown

The culture shock of moving from a small town to Muhlenberg

By Emma Resek
Contributing Writer

Locking eyes with Mrs. Green trying to ask what I have always wanted to know, but I don't. I turn and leave: "Thank you for her time," I squeak. I feel her disappointment follow me out of the room as I watch my own sprint across the floor in front of me. She knew what I was going to ask and part of her wanted me to ask it: I was going to ask if she was gay. Desperate and alienated, I was grasping at straws, but I held my tongue because I knew better than to ask such a controversial question.

I have lived in Chesterfield, Missouri all my life, and it is a beautiful place but not a very open one. I came out to everyone in my life as a bisexual woman about two and a half years ago. They supported as me as best they could, but I always felt alienated because people would always tell me to "love who I am" and accept that there are "some things you can't change," yet no LGBTQ+ adult within 50 miles of me was doing the same. There was not ONE openly LGBTQ+ teacher at my school, and I had suspicions of more than I could count.

Flash forward eight months and I am sitting in my Intro to Sociology class listening to my professor casually speak of her daughter...and partner. I was practically making 360 degree turns waiting for the conservatives to come out from behind a desk, tackle her down and take her away. They never did. Everyone just sat there like it was the most normal thing they had ever heard, and I was left wondering if I was in the Twilight Zone.

I wish I could paint the picture that things are as accepting everywhere as they are at Muhlenberg, but I cannot.

Upon graduating from high school, two teachers, one being Mrs. Green, that I had known for three years and had spent more hours with then I could count, came out to me. However, they have still yet to come out at school because she is not legally guaranteed that she will be able to keep her job. The district claims that it is "implied" in the policies, but "implied" doesn't always hold in court.

I wish I could paint the picture that things are as accepting everywhere as they are at Muhlenberg, but I cannot. Muhlenberg has a long way to go, and we need to focus on constant improvement here. However, we must also remember that the rest of the country is still out there, and it is pretty amazing here. We can write off places like Chesterfield as places with ridiculous or awful people who can't be reasoned with, but we would better off helping them understand what their own personal worlds could look like. Nothing is ever perfect, but things can always become better.

What does it take to be a sister?

By Jennifer Appelbaum
Contributing Writer

Much like half of the sophomore class, I had been waiting anxiously for recruitment since I got to Muhlenberg. Although Greek members make up only 20% of the student body, the opportunity to join a Greek organization was always a shining sliver of hope for my social life. After making lifelong bonds at summer camp I figured Greek Life would be much of the same. A group of likeminded women joining together to hopefully make up a sisterhood. Before recruitment I admittedly was over confident. I worried that my biggest issue with recruitment would be choosing between my two sororities of choice. This couldn't have been farther from the truth; I am writing to you on bid day as I sit in a hospital waiting room.

As you probably can gather, recruitment was nothing like I thought it would be. During recruitment I tried to keep an open mind but as soon as I walked into the room I immediately felt at home with my sorority of choice. The conversations seemed to flow effortlessly as I had so much in common with the sisters. Their philanthropy is a true passion of mine and I was already planning my future in this Greek organization. Well the next day when we got the slips of paper stating which organizations invited us back for night two, the home I felt I had already made for myself was not on my list. In fact only one sorority was. All of the girls around me had full schedules for the night. As I looked around the room I wondered what I had done wrong.

I had described it as "girl flirting," the process of impressing the esteemed women who got to choose your fate in their organization. Girl flirting lies somewhere between a job interview and a first date. The nerves in my stomach certainly felt like I was going on a first date. I researched what to say what to ask and even what to wear while at the same time trying to be my most authentic self. I tried to wow them with my previous charitable involvements and my genuine interest for their personal lives. However I had failed, while everyone around me had succeeded.

This experience has reminded me that although I am unique, so is everyone else around me. It takes a special type of girl to catch the eye of a sorority and I honestly don't know why I don't fit the bill. I feel like a little fish in a big pond full of other beautiful talented and better fish. I wonder if I am the only college kid who has felt this way.

As someone who suffers from both mental and physical disabilities, I was already not at my best and my mother was on campus to take me to the doctor that morning. Upon seeing I didn't get an invitation to my choice sorority I decided the strenuous process of continuing recruitment with a sorority that did not feel like home to me did not outweigh the benefits of going home with my mother and receiving the medial treatments I needed. This brings me to where I am now, the hospital waiting room. Surrounded by old people in the bone marrow transplant wing, a much different crowd than if I had stayed at school and was preparing to (hopefully) receive a bid. Instead, I obsessively check my email hoping I will get my bid while the doctors stick and poke me with needles and fill me with fluids.

P.S. As I go to send this article to my editor I get the fateful email that I did not receive a bid.

Trouble maintaining weight?

How to stay healthy while dealing with stress

By Sofia Yael Eisenberg
Contributing Writer

Do you ever come across those roadblocks of healthy eating habits? You are not alone. What health habits lead to the common phenomenon called the “freshman 15?” You can basically answer it for yourself: binge drinking, which is then followed by cravings of fries, cookies and other junk foods. Binge drinking is not the only cause or even scenario of poor eating habits. Things most, if not all, students struggle with are also stress, anxiety, or even loneliness which provokes the need to constantly scarf down food. The greater challenge to toggle with is knowing your limits, and what your focus should be on.

When discussing why students struggle with their weight in college, it most likely revolves around their eating habits. This is not to say that you can sneak in a few cookies here and there, however. With eating cookies comes, of course, the gym. The gym is not just a place to lose weight, but a place to release your inner stress endorphins. Why could you be stressed? With stress coming from constant academic changes, or even managing your schedule are closely related to stress.

For myself, as an avid cyclist and gym enthusiast, I cannot go a day without entering my home: The Life Sports Center. Although, there are times where I am just too tired to walk to the gym, my instincts remind me that I need to be accountable for my own stress. So, rather than eating junk food, I take myself to the gym to release those stressors. I make sure that everyday before I head to the gym, I have completed all assigned work that is due the following day. Procrastination is a problem for a lot of students, therefore, I recommend thinking about your future. What do you want to do after college? Where do you see yourself? These life lessons are ones to keep in mind. These are lifestyle responsibilities that are similar to how your professors expect you to see your work. If you become apparent to what your daily needs are sooner than later, along with what your future will look like, it will help guide you in the healthy lifestyle path of managing your stress.

Having these balanced motives will allow for happiness. As a matter of fact, you can flip through flashcards on the elliptical or treadmill in preparation for an upcoming exam. You can take 35 minutes to workout without studying, or even so 35 minutes to workout while studying. Remember though that if you are walking on the treadmill, you should increase your incline from 0.0 to 12% with adjusting your speed to 3.5mph, or whatever allows you to walk and study without falling off.

Being equipped with these stressors does not stop you from eating healthy foods!

Looking for a healthy and easy recipe, that will leave you full? You are at luck! For those of you who may not know me, I craze about kale, and greens! As simple as waking up a little early before class, and gathering ingredients to make a powerhouse smoothie will keep you satisfied until your next meal. With only 240 calories, and five minutes to make, the High Protein Blueberry Kale Smoothie, is full of antioxidants and of course protein which is what keeps you full!

As most students still live in dorms, and may not have access to a blender, or even a car to pick up these ingredients, there are still other ways to have a healthy breakfast, lunch, or even dinner! We have one of the top dining halls in the country, along with the number one in Pennsylvania, the Muhlenberg Dining Hall is right at your fingertips! What are you waiting for? The dining hall has numerous of healthy living choices for you to pick from. Whether its grabbing a scoop of granola and drizzling it onto your plain nonfat vanilla yogurt, or grabbing a handful of kale you are good! Make sure you have some protein, even grabbing grilled chicken will do the trick. Keep in mind that salad dressings are high in sodium, and carbohydrates, so be aware of how much you drizzle on. Muhlenberg has multitudes of accommodations that suit everybody’s needs. That being said, if you ever need nutrition help, the chefs are more than happy to assist you, along with the nutritionist on campus.

Remember to find your core happiness! Maybe it consists of doing abs in your room, spending 25 minutes at the gym, doing yoga, or just sitting in the saddle (bike seat), listening to music, riding towards your success and happiness. Or even so, riding towards your next endeavor, followed by success and happiness.

Zumba is a fraud: investigative journalism as you’ve never seen

By Will Wamser
Op/Ed Editor

You know me, I have always been an investigative journalist first, a friend second, a child third, a bro fourth, a kid fifth, an artist sixth and last & least, I am man. When I get a sniff of a story I dig into it, much like a dog. I might even say I am a dog, which would probably land in between bro and kid, so I am a dog fifth. What was I saying? Don’t you hate it when you’re at the beginning of writing one of your award-winning opinion pieces and you go on a tangent and just cannot remember what you were talking about? Me too.

That’s right, I was saying how I sniff stories out, much like a dog because I am a dog fifth. And this past week I got my nostrils on a doozy of a scent and it smelled like a story. Not just any story, a newspaper story. I’ve been writing jokey, junky journal-entries my entire life, and it has been so easy. I just do it and then people say it’s amazing, but it’s not enough. I want to be validified as a writer and a journalist. I’ve been looking for my chance to really sink my nose into a juicer story, and I may have just found it in the form of Zumba.

This past week I attended Muhlenberg’s own Zumba class, and what I found was enlightening. I was shocked to find out that the class consisted of exercise-type dancing to upbeat pop songs, which I’m told is what Zumba is. But let’s talk about that word, Zumba. They seem to have created their own language with new strange words like; Zumba, hydrate, abs and $hakira.

I attempted to ingratiate myself into the class and I fit in. I could do the jumps, the kicks, the arm things, and even squats (no, not yams). But you shouldn’t ask anyone who was there, they would probably lie. They were all liars. Once I established myself as a Zumber, I found the truth behind the class and it was dark and full of juice. You aren’t even gonna believe this truth, it is just too juicy. You will need to splash water on your face because this dark secret of Zumba will make you cry the moisture from your face.

The truth is... uhhhh. The truth is that Zumba was, uh, bad? No, not that, the actual truth is that Zumba does, or doesn’t um, yeah it doesn’t work on glutes enough. Yes, I am commiting to that being the big secret. Pretty shocking, right? I feel like this is Pulitzer territory. Send your awards my way asap, and, and, and...

I’m sorry, I can’t do this. I had a wonderful time at Zumba and my glutes have been well worked. The guilt of lying to you was eating me alive and I couldn’t handle it. This is my confession, lock me up and destroy the key for I have forsaken the trust of my beloved readers. Do you want to know the true scoop? Where the real sniff stuff is? If you think you want to know my horrible truth, read on at your own behest.

The real truth is that I’m the fraud. Please, save your gasps for the end. I made up this whole story. That’s actually not true, I did go to Zumba and we did do exercise dancing, but there’s no dark secret. Zumba was just fun and I’ll probably go again, but I don’t deserve it. I was looking for a story because my nose has dried up, I haven’t written a good article in weeks! I’m just throwing spaghetti at the wall and taping up what doesn’t stick, and now I’ve made a mess. That is why I am stepping down as Op/Ed section editor, for life. Remember when I told you to save your gasps? You can let them fly now.

I would like to thank everyone at The Weekly for their service of me, but I must depart because I have taught you all I know and I have disgraced myself in the process. So long, farewell, auf Wiedersehen, good night. I hate to go and leave this pretty sight. The sun has gone to bed, as so must I. I am have now become a journalist last and a fraud best, and an Op/Ed editor I am no more.

If you’d like to give me any going away gifts, you will find me sweating in my shame at Zumba.

The mystery of what might have been

By Jackson Wilken
Contributing Writer

On Sept. 7, Mac Miller was pronounced dead at 26, of an apparent overdose. Miller had always struggled with drug addiction and sobriety, but following the release of his new album, it had seemed like things in his life were starting to take a turn for the better.

Miller released his final album “Swimming” on Aug. 3, 2018 to the most positive critical and fan reception he had ever received. Miller had been continuously evolving his entire career. From his humble beginnings in catchy frat rap to his grandiose compositions and instrumentals that involved entire orchestras, Miller showed that he wasn’t someone who was going to be boxed in. Miller was always changing and bettering himself, he was always looking to be a superior, more interesting artist. That’s what makes his death so crushing: he was only getting better.

He had so much left to share with the world. He was so close to making his perfect record, he was so close to being nominated for a Grammy and receiving everything he hoped for. He was so close, and now he’s gone.

Being a white, male teenager from Pennsylvania, I looked up to Mac Miller. He looked like me, he talked like me, he was interested in the things that I was interested in, he was my idol. Mac was the very first artist I found on my own, he was the first artist I ever called mine. I remember spending hours upon hours watching his YouTube channel and just being amazed that someone could do something they loved and become famous for it. Although I never met him, I felt like I knew him through his music. Every album was a different entry into the diary of Mac Miller. Each album grew and became more complex from the one prior, just as you, the listener were growing and becoming more emotionally complex and mature in between albums.

Drug addiction is a mental health problem which is often rooted in other mental health issues. Mental health issues do not have to be taboo to talk about, mental health issues do not have to be scary. Be sure to reach out and talk to your friends about their issues and what is going on in their lives. Reach out to your friends and let them know that their life is worth living, that you care for them and that they are not alone.

Reach out before you or someone you love passes even though they have more to give to the world. Reach out.

Preparing for takeoff

Mules beat Dickinson and Haverford before heading to Minnesota

By Alex Blum
Contributing Writer

After exiting last week's finale against SUNY Cortland with a dominating win, the Lady Mules looked to rebuild their winning streak and continue to climb up the standings. With two Centennial Conference foes, Haverford and Dickinson, up next, the squad looked to improve their record within the conference to 2-1 and take them to an 11-3 record overall.

"When our energy goes up, their energy goes down and we are able to dominate."

The Haverford Fords entered the Sept. 19 match after closing the Neumann Invitational with two dominating wins taking down both Catholic and Widener Universities in three straight sets.

The Fords looked to keep the momentum on their side and pick up another big win. The first two sets were filled with tight, back-and-forth play as the Mules pulled away for the first set victory 25-21 while the Fords took the second 35-33. Following those two hard fought sets, the Mules took control of the game and ran with it. The ladies breezed through the third and fourth sets, winning 25-13 and then 25-18.

The group found its success, according to Kelly Tornetta '19, an outside hitter for the Mules, through their energy- "It was definitely our energy. We are a very energetic team and when our energy goes up, their energy goes down and we are able to dominate on the court." Leading the charge was Tara Register '20 with 15 kills, Shannon Hubert '19 with 39 assists and Maya Ilovsky '21 with 22 digs.

After the long and successful home stand of eight games, the team hit the road to square off against the 4-8 Dickinson Red Devils in Carlisle, PA. Although falling in five straight games, the Red Devils put up a fight until the very end. Each set was extremely tight from start to finish with more intense back and forth play. Dickinson took command of the first set early, but the Mules kept battling and ultimately came back with a late surge to seal the first set victory. The next three sets alternated between the Mules and the Red Devils until a final and decisive fifth set was needed to settle it. After a hard-fought fifth set, the ladies would, in the end, come away with the 15-11 win and leave the Kline Center 2-0 on the week. Tornetta praised their play adding, "We've been playing really well so far and we want to continue to step up our mentality and have teams feel intimidated each and every time we step out there."

The Muhlenberg Women's Volleyball team, now 2-1 in Centennial Conference play and winners of their last three matches, now find themselves in sixth place in the conference standings. The team continues their series of road games as they head off to St. Paul and Arden Hills, Minnesota to take on the University of St. Thomas, St. Olaf College and Bethel University in another action packed week of games. The squad will touch down in Minnesota on Thursday and return on Sunday.

"We've been playing really well so far and we want to continue to step up our mentality."

Tornetta was excited for how the travels may prepare the team moving forward. "They are very strong and skilled teams and this will help prepare us for our conference games. We have never seen them before and it will be great to see what they have."

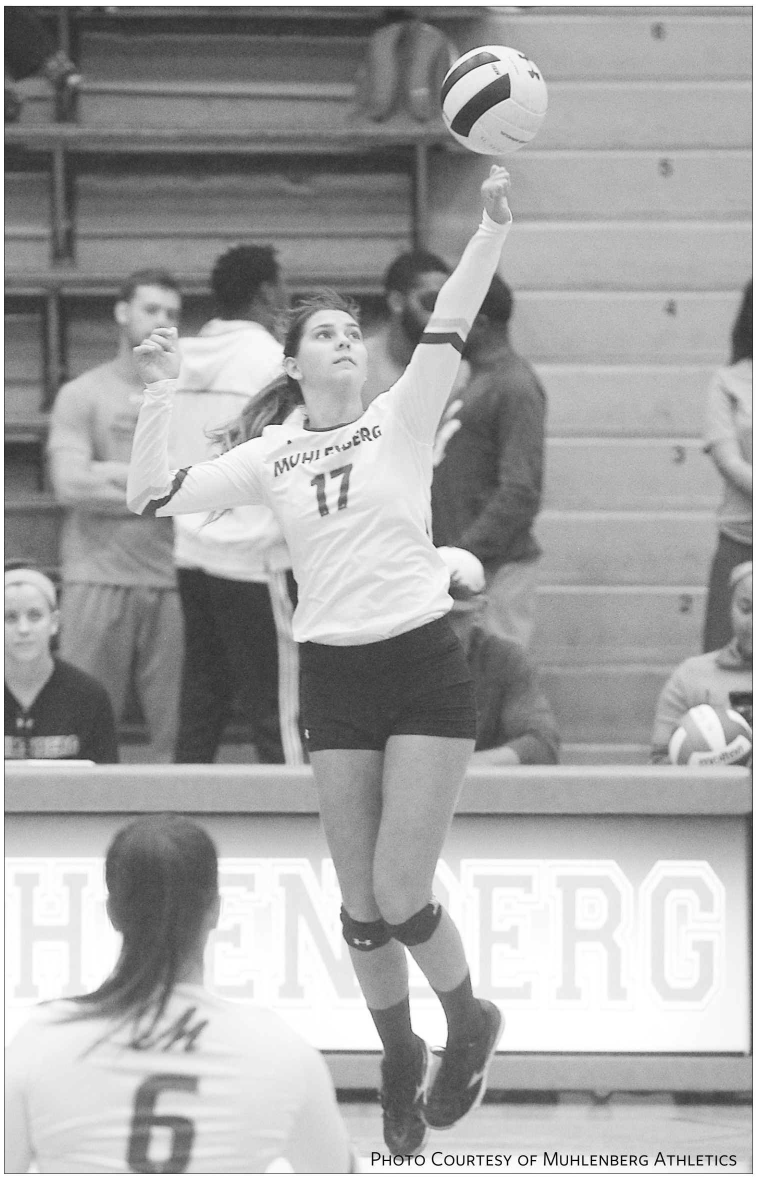


Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Kelly Tornetta '19 has been a force for the Mules. Last week she became the first Volleyball player in 14 years to reach 1000 kills.

muhlenberg college theatre & dance

MACHINAL

Sophie Treadwell's haunting portrait of a desperate woman

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Complete Control

Football handles Juniata with ease in front of Alumni

By Alex Horowitz
Senior Staff Writer

If there was ever a perfect day to set a new Muhlenberg College football record, today was the day.

On a beautiful Homecoming weekend game at Scotty Wood Stadium, the Mules absolutely dominated the opposing Juniata College Eagles on both sides of the ball, cruising to a 62-7 victory. According to the official Muhlenberg Athletics website, the 62 points was the most the Mules have scored against a Centennial Conference opponent at home in 16 years.

"It was great to see our team play more of a complete football game," said Head Football Coach Nate Milne. "We played very well on all phases in the second half of Dickinson and we played at an elite level for the first half of the Susquehanna game and this Saturday against Juniata we were able to play our first complete game of football."

The win brings the Mules record to 3-0, continuing the perfect start to the season in Coach Milne's first full season as head coach of the team.

Running back James Diggs '21, who ran for 79 yards and a touchdown in the big win, spoke highly of the team's performance against Juniata, praising Coach Milne along the way.

"We were able to just execute our game plan," answered Diggs. "Coach Milne came up with a wonderful game plan heading into the game and we were able to execute. When scoring that many points in one game the goal is to never be satisfied until the game is over. Every team in the Centennial is a tough matchup, so whenever we have a lead on any team we are looking for ways to remain on top of our game that way we have the best chance to win."

Although the 55-point margin of victory is something to be proud of in any week, the win this weekend was especially meaningful as it came on the college's annual Homecoming Weekend. Playing in front of dozens of Muhlenberg Football alumni, the team knew that this wasn't just any other regular season game.

"The football alumni are truly special at Muhlenberg College," declared Coach Milne. "They gave everything they had during their careers here at Muhlenberg and continue to support us long after they have graduated. The support Muhlenberg Football receives is second to none and our team enjoys seeing their teammates back."

At quarterback, Michael Hnatkowsky '21 played a near flawless game, completing 23 of 27 pass attempts for 278 yards and four touchdowns, while throwing only one interception. Matt Gibbon '19, one of the team captains, saw action in the second half, throwing for 12 yards on two for four passing. Sean Elliot '19 collected his first career reception as well.

In order to score the amount of points the Mules put up on the scoreboard on Saturday, it takes a complete team effort, which is something Coach Milne emphasizes each week.

"We have a team that is ready to compete no matter what the situation is," answered Milne. "We were able to play a significant number of players yesterday and almost everyone had success when they were in. Our team truly has a desire to excel."

That "desire to excel" is what makes this year's Mules football team so special. Week in and week out, they put in whatever it takes to win football games. Whether it's on the practice field, in the film room, or on game day, the team truly has shown a "team-first" mentality that has thus far translated to three very impressive victories this season.

Pitch full of pride

Women's Soccer participates in United Soccer Coaches' Second Annual Play with Pride Week

By Matt Riebesell
Managing Editor

The Muhlenberg women's soccer team took the field during their Conference match against Haverford on Sept. 19 more colorful than usual. Literally.

The Mules were participating in Play with Pride week, which took place from Sept. 17 to the 23 and featured teams across the country wearing rainbow shoe laces in their cleats to show support for the LGBTQ community. This is the Mules first time working with the United Soccer Coaches' association which organized this event for the second time in as many years.

> **"United Soccer Coaches is committed to fostering diversity by offering a welcoming and supportive environment for its members."**

The Mules were held scoreless after the first half and had allowed one goal to the Haverford Fords. As they took the field for the second half, rainbow laces a bit muddier than before, they looked to even the score. Danni Steigerwald '20 took matters into her own hands. With just over five minutes left in the match the Mules were awarded a free kick. Casarah Morales '20 took the set play and sent the ball to the six-yard box on the near post. After a few failed clearance attempts by Haverford the ball pinballed its way to Steigerwald who blasted a shot into the back of the net. Regulation expired without any more scoring action.

The Mules and Fords went back and forth trading not-so-threatening scoring opportunities in the first overtime forcing a second OT period. No matter what, this extra time would be the last opportunity for the teams to conclude. With less than three minutes on the clock Haverford came down the right side of the field. The Fords scored the decisive goal just in time as they spoiled the Mules special day.

The hashtag #PlayWithPride features pictures of players, teams, coaches and fans with the colorful laces being worn on shoes, in hair and as bracelets. Although the movement was originally intended for all levels of soccer, from youth to professional, other sports have followed suit. Most notable, on the Twitter page for the Play with Pride hashtag, many field hockey teams participated in the efforts to raise awareness.

Libby Juliano / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Casarah Morales '20 wears the rainbow laces supplied by the United Coaches Association.

Based in Kansas City, Mo., The United Soccer Coaches organization is the world's largest soccer coaches organization according to its website. The web page continues, "United Soccer Coaches is committed to fostering diversity by offering a welcoming and supportive environment for its members, leadership and other constituents, and to nurturing a learning and working environment that respects differences in culture, age, gender, race, ethnicity, physical ability, sexual orientation, religious affiliation and socio-economic status."

Play with Pride was a success for the USC as their website explained that the organization had given out all shoe laces to colleges willing to participate. They are already looking for donations for their 2019 Play with Pride week.

Although the loss, Mules first year Head Coach Kelly Wakeman was glad the Mules could "show our support for the LGBTQ community as well as bring awareness to the topics of inclusion and diversity."

The Women's next game will be against in Bryn Mawr on October 2. Their next home action is during Fall break on Sat Oct. 6th against Johns Hopkins.

from **Soccer** page 12

ond half.

Due to the match being a non-conference after 90 regulation minutes both teams, still scoreless, ended the game ended in a draw. This was the Mules second consecutive tie after their scoreless affair against Franklin & Marshall.

Senior midfielder and captain Kevin Irving, along with junior right back Jordan Cimring led the team in shots and shots on goal with their best opportunities coming in the second half. Despite being unable to finish any of their opportunities Cimring was still able to take some positives from the 0-0 draw.

"We had many chances and opportunities and none of them fell our way. The one goal that was called offside seemed like a good goal but we have to learn from it and figure out a way

to score. We will bounce back and keep fighting. All good teams face challenges that they must overcome," said Cimring, who has been a steady presence for the team at right back so far this season.

In the second game of the week the lads travelled to Swarthmore and despite leading in total shots nine to Swats seven, the Mules were once again held scoreless. Both teams stayed that way until the 50th minute when Swarthmore converted one of their five corners to put them ahead 1-0. The Mules, unable to overcome their offensive woes left Swarthmore with a bad taste in their mouth.

The squad will they look to bounce back in their marquee matchup against Centennial Conference rival Johns Hopkins on September 29 under the lights of Varsity Field.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Playing with pride
read on 11

Libby Juliano/The Muhnberg Weekly

A new era for Mules Tennis

New hire Jason Toedter navigates first months as coach

By Brandon Kossin
Contributing Writer

Jason Toedter was named the new Muhlenberg College head men's and women's tennis coach in July 2018. Toedter is familiar to the Lehigh Valley having played tennis at Moravian College. He was named the MAC champion and player of the year in 2004. He was selected for all-conference four times and is the all-time wins leader at his alma mater with 54. At the end of his playing days, he was given the prestigious honor of being added to the MAC 100 Century Team for the 1994-2003 decade.

Toedter began his coaching career as an assistant coach for the men's and women's tennis teams at Moravian College from 2005 - 2007, and eventually became the associate head coach for the women's team in 2010. While coaching the Greyhound women, he led them to a MAC Championship, a Landmark Conference Championship and multiple NCAA Tournament bids.

His successes with Moravian led to him being part of the Landmark coaching staff of the year. In the past two years, he had been coaching at Delaware Valley University.

> **"I realized that Muhlenberg is the best possible environment for me to excel as a coach."**

It is a new era for Muhlenberg Tennis with Coach Toedter leading the charge. The new tennis coach opened his Muhlenberg men's tennis career with a men's win against his alma mater in a 9-0 victory. However the women could not find the same kind of success. They lost 8-1 at the paws of the Greyhounds.

The only other event the men's team team will attend in the fall of 2018 is the ITA Southeast Regional tournament in Fredericksburg, Virginia. That tournament will take place from Sept. 29-30.

In the Women's ITA event senior Shelby Knafo and freshman Caroline Armknecht both won matches and moved past the first round. Armknecht made it to the Flight C Singles final and Knafo to the Flight D quarterfinal. For the women, the fall season concluded at the regional event.

The new coach is excited about this opportunity going forward. "When I felt the determination and commitment of the players and the enthusiastic, supportive character of the athletic department, I realized that Muhlenberg is the best possible environment for me to excel as a coach. I am excited to get to work and that is a great feeling," Toedter said.

With a light schedule of just a few events in the fall, the Mules will look to really get the Toedter era rolling in the spring, which is their main season.

Men's Soccer struggles offensively

By Noah Sellinger
Contributing Writer

It was another tough week for the Mules attack, as they were unable to generate any offensive production in either of their games this week. It was left up to the defense to step up for the team against opponents DeSales and Swarthmore.

Against DeSales, the team lost their home field advantage as Varsity Field was deemed unplayable after a previous night of stormy weather. The match was moved to Cedar Crest College where the Mules hoped to have some better luck finding the back of the net.

Getting his first start in goal, transfer Raymond Leto '20 was stellar, recording four saves for the first clean sheet in his young Muhlenberg career. However the Mules squandered multiple chances in front of goal, and hit a post late in the sec-

see **Soccer** page 11

Coming up this week in SPORTS

Sept. 27 through Oct. 4

Volleyball

Muhlenberg
vs
St. Thomas

Friday, Sept. 28 @ 8:00 PM
St. Paul, Minn

Field Hockey

Muhlenberg
vs
Montclair State

Friday, Sept. 28 @ 6:00 PM
Scotty Wood Stadium

Football

Muhlenberg
vs
Franklin & Marshall

Saturday, Sept. 29 @ 1:00 PM
Scotty Wood Stadium

Men's Tennis

ITA
Southeast
Regional

Saturday, Sept. 29
Fredericksburg, VA

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Read inside:

Field Hockey goes 3-0 in conference

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NEWS

A look at how increased digital learning technology has paved way for the HIVE, Trexler Library's new multimedia center for all majors.

read more on 4

ARTS & CULTURE

Patricia Koch Budlong leads Spanish Art-song Master Class Muhlenberg students and faculty to explore and learn about Spanish song technique.

read more on 5

OP/ED

The Editorial Board tackles Brett Kavanaugh's hearing, and why teenagers should be held accountable for their actions.

read more on 8

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

SPORTS

Women's soccer nets two goals in their 4th conference game of the season. Their next match-up is against second place Johns Hopkins .

read more on 10

machinal *adjective*

machi • nal | \ məˈshēnᵊl , ˈmakən- \

Definition of *machinal:*

1. (archaic) of or relating to machines, MECHANICAL

Julia Baker '19 captivates in Sophie Treadwell's Machinal. Read more on page 9

Photo Courtesy of Ken Eck

Should Brown Hall become co-ed?

School seeks input on changing all-female dorm in near future

By Chloe Gravereaux
Editor-in-Chief

Students were asked for their thoughts on converting Brown Hall, the college's only all-female residence hall, into a co-ed dorm by a digital survey emailed out on Monday, Sept. 24 with the intention of making the freshmen dorms more gender-inclusive.

Inquiries like the one sent out on Monday occur every few years. The results of the survey will not affect housing arrangements for this academic year, and any changes would take place no earlier than the fall of 2019.

Dean of Students Allison Gulati and Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Housing & Residence Life Courtney Stephens are currently collecting student input on the topic.

"Brown Hall has been designated as a female building for decades. Like many practices, this has some benefits and barriers," said Gulati in the email. "Over the next year, we will be discussing this practice to make a determination about how students will be housed in Brown Hall for future years, and if it will continue to be designated as all female."

"For years, students have inquired about the ability to live in Brown, regardless of identity," said Stephens. "[Brown] is the only residence hall that is not in line with our gender inclusive policies. For instance, there are no facilities with showers to support non-female gendered bathrooms."

The College introduced gender-neutral housing in the lottery for the 2011-2012 school year, which was the first year students of different gender identities could share a double. In 2015, the signage of 17 bathrooms was changed to gender neutral, with discussion of changing more last year. Currently, each dorm except for Brown and the Courts contains at least one gender-neutral bathroom. According to the Housing and Residence life webpage on gender neutral housing, Students should use the bathroom on their floor of the gender that they identify with.

see **Brown** page 4

Destroying "Dirty Pross"

By Sophia Richter
Contributing Writer

> **"There were crabs in the common room. There was an actual STI that was spreading because of how crowded Prosser was."**

Affectionately known around campus as "Dirty Prosser," many would also consider Prosser Hall to be the residence hall most in need of a significant update. As of right now, it is the only residence hall without air conditioning and houses the greatest amount of first year students in the smallest-sized rooms, compared to the other freshman dorms, Walz and Brown.

According to the Campus Safety notes from Sept. 10-23, six out of 20 sick students on campus were all in Prosser, three out of the five alcohol violations occurred in Prosser, in addition to two reports of vandalism and two reports of harassment and disorderly conduct.

"[There's a] bond between everybody... especially back in the summer when were all dying of heat exhaustion. It forces you to visit other people's rooms who have AC," says Dominique Karanfilian '22, who currently lives in Prosser. "It's got a lot of character. There was a mysterious yellow stain on the wall not that long ago."

While students who live in Prosser are aware of its nickname and reputation of being "Dirty Prosser," the general trend seems to be that students seem to be making the best of the situation.

"It was a lot of fun just because of the community in Prosser," says Mia Shmariahu '19. "Now that I've lived in other housing, I've realized how small and dirty and crowded Prosser is. And the fact that it didn't have AC was really rough. There were crabs in the common room. There was an actual STI that was spreading because of how crowded Prosser was."

Prosser is currently at the top of of The Strategic Planning Committee's proposed projects list within the next five to 10 years. According to the Proposed Phasing Strategy, the college first plans to construct a

see **Prosser** page 3

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

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CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

NOTE FROM CAMPUS SAFETY: Campus Safety Notes from 9/28-9/30 will be available in the next publication.

Monday, September 24

Check the Welfare - 5:54 a.m.
In Brown Hall, there was a report to locate a student. Student health services was notified and the student was later located.

Sick Student - 5:18 p.m.
In the Health Center, there was a report of a sick student. The student was transported to the hospital by Campus Safety.

Suspicious Activity - 6:15 p.m.
On campus, there was a report of suspiscious activity. Individuals were identified and spoken to. The investigation is to continue.

Tuesday, September 25

Fire Alarm - 12:10 a.m.
In Walz Hall, there was a report of a fire alarm sounding from burnt food. The system was silenced and reset.

Hit-and-run - 1:00 p.m.
In the Martin Luther Hall parking lot, there was a report of a hit-and-run, causing damage to paint. The investigation is to continue.

Property Damage - 2:15 p.m.
On Ott Street, there was a report of a vehicle stuck in mud causing damage to the lawn. A tow truck was able to assist the vehicle.

Wednesday, September 26

Sick Student - 12:36 a.m.
On Ott Street, there was a report of a sick student. Student Health Services was notified, and there was no further incident.

Sick Student - 7:20 a.m.
In Walz Hall, there was a report of a sick student. The student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

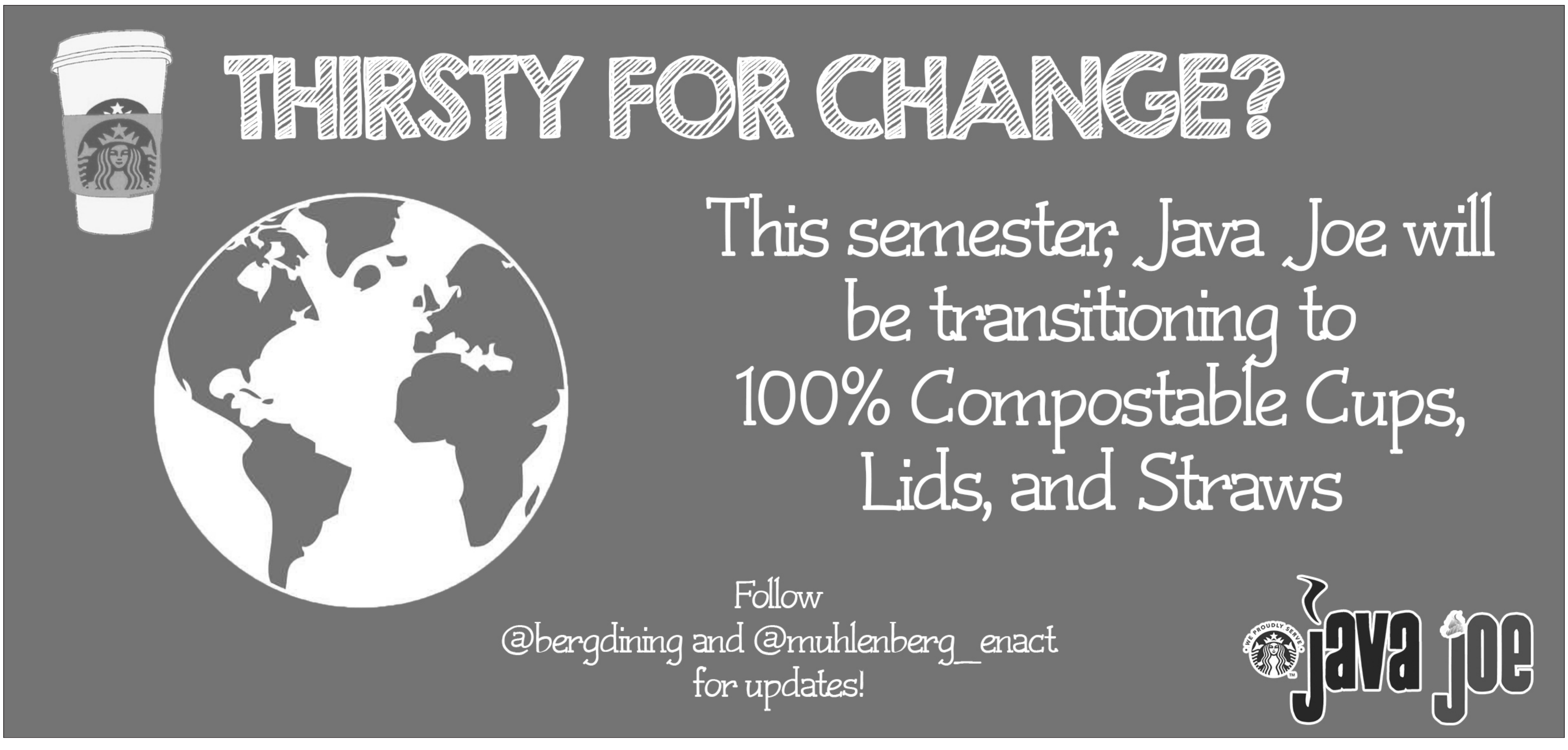
Lockdown Drill - 3:31 p.m.
On campus, there was a report of a lockdown drill. The drill was completed without incident.

Thursday, September 27

Fire Alarm - 8:45 a.m.
On North 23rd Street, there was a report of a fire alarm sounding due to steam from a shower. The system was silenced and reset.

Fire Alarm - 11:07 a.m.
On Chew Street, there was a report of a fire alarm sounding due to steam from a shower. The system was silenced and reset.

Fire Alarm - 11:39 a.m.
On Gordon Street, there was a report of a fire alarm sounding due to steam from a shower. The system was silenced and reset.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Decoding the Campus Safety Annual Security Report

By Sydney Coplin
News Editor

The Campus Safety Annual Security report (ASR) is published each year in accordance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Crime Statistics Act, or the Clery Act. According to Clerycenter.org:

"The Clery Act is a consumer protection law that aims to provide transparency around campus crime policy and statistics. In order to comply with Clery Act requirements, colleges and universities must understand what the law entails, where their responsibilities lie and what they can do to actively foster campus safety."

A familiar concept, as this is the same Act that encompasses the notion of the "timely warning."

"One of the most significant impacts on the content of the Annual Security report (ASR) was the 2016 edition of The Handbook [for] Campus Safety and Security Reporting, which offered the most recent guidance statistical and overall ASR report preparation," said Brian Fidati, Director of Campus Safety.

The Handbook for Campus Safety and Security Reporting "was developed by the U.S. Department of Education to present step-by-step procedures, examples and references for higher education institutions to follow in meeting the campus safety and security requirements of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended," according to the official U.S Department of Education website.

Besides handbook, Fidati explained that the ASR was also positively impacted by stepping up training due to an established membership with the Clery Center that began two and a half years ago.

"In order to comply with Clery Act requirements, colleges and universities must understand what the law entails."

"Through this training and Clery Center guidance we continue to improve the quality and content of our ASR," said Fidati.

Nonetheless, students were notified via email on Friday, Sept. 28 that this year's report was available to read and review.

A link to the report is also listed on the bottom of the Muhlenberg College website.

"This year our Muhlenberg College Clery Committee members worked collaboratively to edit and amend the report based on a Clery Center ASR review from the previous year, as well as new College policies," noted Fidati.

The 2018 report is 108 pages long. In comparison with previous years: the 2014-2015 report was 54 pages, the 2015-2016 report was 92 pages and the 2017 report was 114 pages.

Despite the variation in length from year to year, the content tends to include similar concepts: definitions and resources are clearly explained and the report also lays out the procedures for different incidents that could take place--such as fires, injuries, chemical spills and bomb threats.

There is also a list of 16 "crime prevention programs and projects" ranging from the personal safety escort program to new-student orientation.

Additionally, the security report includes an encyclopedia of health effects of various types of drugs and alcohol:

"In addition to College disciplinary actions, criminal penalties and workplace hazards, specific serious health risks are associated with the use of illicit drugs and alcohol. All drugs, including alcohol, can cause marked changes in behavior and have side effects. Their influences can affect the safety and well-being of the users as well as those around them."

While education with the hope of prevention takes up the majority of the report, the final few pages enclose numerous tables of statistics for crimes that took place on and off campus. There is a clear indication for where the statistics are drawn from:

"For statistical purposes, crime statistics reported to any of these sources are recorded in the calendar year the crime was reported. A written request for statistical information is made on an annual basis to all Campus Security Authorities (as defined by federal law) and to all Campus Deans, Directors and Department Heads. Statistical information is requested and provided to DCS by the employees at the Counseling Center and the Student Health Center, even though they are not required by law to provide statistics, for the compliance document."

"Through this training and Clery Center guidance we continue to improve the quality and content of our ASR."

The crime that was reported most often for the 2017 calendar year was liquor law violations; there were eight on-campus arrests for liquor law violations and 218 on-campus judicial referrals for this same crime.

Similarly, there was one on-campus and one public property arrest for drug law violation, 61 on-campus judicial referrals for drug law violation and five on-campus judicial referrals for illegal weapon possession.

For reference, the differentiation between "on-campus" and "public property" lies in the fact that "public property" is defined in the report as "including thoroughfares, streets, sidewalks and parking facilities, that is within the campus or immediately adjacent to and accessible from the campus."

Other recorded crimes for 2017 include: three instances of on-campus rape, one on-campus robbery, five on-campus burglaries and two public property burglaries, one on-campus arson and one public property motor vehicle theft.

Under the Violence Against Women Act, or VAWA, there were two reportings of on-campus dating violence and two reportings of on-campus stalking.

There was one reporting of an on-campus fire in Benfer Hall with no injuries but 50 dollars worth of property damage.

There were no reported hate crimes for this year.

Ultimately, the mission of Campus Safety as reflected by the ASR "is to promote and maintain a safe, inclusive and welcoming campus environment as we serve and protect the College Community."

FROM **PROSSER** PAGE 1

new upperclassmen suite-style residence hall next to the library that will include a retail center and a parking garage. Once that is completed, they will then begin a full renovation of Prosser, which will entail the addition of a fourth floor, moving the laundry rooms up and making more common spaces.

"[There's a] bond between everybody ... especially back in the summer when were all dying of heat exhaustion."

"The plans for Prosser this summer are to add air conditioning. We didn't want to wait and it's a good semi-temporary solution to put air conditioners in the windows," says David Rabold, Capital Projects Manager. "The permanent goal would be to renovate it so it's like East Hall with a fan coil that provides heat and cooling."

Current fundraising efforts are being directed towards the construction of the new building, as it is already financially feasible to insert window units into every room of Prosser.

"All of the planning includes Prosser being renovated to improve its standards," Rabold says.

As of right now, the college has already re-painted, re-carpeted and replaced the lamps in the hallways.

There is also an initiative to replace the doors over the next five years. However, only 15 to 20 doors can be replaced at a time, as the primary efforts will be directed towards installing air conditioning units, which requires the addition of more power capacities in the building.

For some, the updates done over the summer have already improved the atmosphere in Prosser.

"The way that they redid it made it look more youthful," says Karanfilian. But it has also made others skeptical of Muhlenberg's intentions.

"What efforts?" says Shmariahu. "Was that really the top priority?"

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good
Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Public Relations

A group of students in their Prosser Hall dorm room in May 2017.

Additionally, there is also the concern of where students will live once these renovations actually take place. It is no secret that the college has recently experienced a housing shortage, as evidenced by the need to erect The Courts, a temporary housing structure. This concern will ideally be addressed with the new residence hall.

Prosser will likely be renovated one side at a time, and students who would live in the side under construction will go into Walz, Brown or Taylor. Those upperclassmen who would have lived in Taylor or Brown will then have more of an opportunity to live in a suite-style setting.

Though the renovations of Prosser are much needed, for many past students who have gone through Prosser, the new building will be bittersweet.

"I feel like Prosser was an initiation process," says Shmariahu, "so there's a small part of me that's sad that freshmen won't have to go through what we went through."

New digital learning HIVE buzzing with innovation

By Gabrielle Hondorp
Contributing Writer

Tucked in the corner of Trexler Library's B level is the new Digital Learning center known as the "HIVE," which employs digital learning assistants (DLA) that assist students with digital projects and assignments. Although the HIVE is currently used mainly by media students, it is available to anyone on a walk-in basis. Digital projects are also beginning to make their way into other majors as website design and blogging are both useful skills and effective ways to present information. However, many students have expressed that they are unsure of how to use domains and some are not even aware that it is available to them.

"I don't really know what it is, or how to use it. I think a lot of people don't," said Julia Termine '20. Luckily, DLAs are trained to help with domains, eportfolios, digital mapping, digital storytelling, podcasting and digital archival work which covers just about any digital project that could be assigned.

With the steady growth of the center came new leadership. Lora Taub, newly appointed Associate Dean of Digital Learning and Professor of Media & Communication runs the HIVE along with Jenna Azar and Tim Clarke. Azar and Clarke are focused mainly on the training and mentoring of DLAs, and assist them with in-class trainings and workshops. Taub has been deeply involved in the progress of digital learning at Muhlenberg, specifically with the development of personal domains.

> **"The name captured the sense of creativity, buzz, and our emphasis on making in digital learning."**

"The name captured the sense of creativity, buzz, and our emphasis on *making* in digital learning," said Taub when asked about the HIVE's origins. "It just stuck and continues to provide an apt metaphor for the ethos and purpose of our student focused work."

Every student is now presented with a "Domain of Your Own," which appears on OneLogin as BergBuilds. BergBuilds allows students to design and manage platforms and websites both for school and personal use. The domain serves as a singular control and storage unit, connecting all sorts of platforms in one place. It allows for the downloading of multiple apps, and even the creation of more than one website within the same app (for example, one can have and maintain more than one WordPress blog). BergBuilds remains active for students up to a year after they graduate, and afterward can be kept for personal use with a yearly fee of $25.

The HIVE that used to reside on the ground floor of Ettinger has spread out in its new space. With a movable desk formation and various large screens to work on, it lends itself to group work and collaboration. The growth of the space reflects the growth of digital technology throughout various paths of study.

"Together we are working to shape the space to promote the purposeful integration of digital technologies in teaching and learning," said Taub. "Creating inclusive, hospitable environments where communities can explore and create with digital tools is critical to understanding their presence in a liberal arts setting."

Although the HIVE is continuing to develop, as is digital technology, it is quickly becoming an unavoidable aspect of the Muhlenberg education across all majors. Though introducing digital technologies can be potentially overwhelming, the HIVE provides a comfortable place for students to explore and learn.

Vandalism of a "threatening nature" reported on two occasions in East Hall

By Laura Schwarz
Contributing Writer

On Sept. 19 and again on Sept. 22 the Director of Housing and Residence Life, Courtney Stephens, sent an email to all residents of East Hall reporting cases of vandalism on students' whiteboards. The first report claimed that "inappropriate language" was written on the whiteboards, while the second vandalism was of "a threatening nature."

While the Office of Housing and Residence Life as well as Campus Safety declined to comment on any of the incidents because of their ongoing nature, Courtney Stephens stressed in her email that "Those found responsible will be held accountable under the Student Code of Conduct, and will face severe consequences which could include suspension or expulsion."

This form of vandalism would fall under "Care for Property" in the Student Code of Conduct, which describes the "destroying, defacing, or damaging the property of another" as "prohibited conduct." Additionally, the "threatening" writing reported on Sep. 22 would fall under "Care for Others" as "Threats of Physical Violence" and "Harassment" are listed as "prohibited conduct" as well.

"As a reminder, it is a shared community responsibility to contribute to a culture that is welcoming, inclusive and safe for everyone. I encourage you to abide by Muhlenberg′s community standards and to hold others accountable to do so as well," added Stephens in her first email.

This mirrors the language in the Student Code of Conduct that states, "Achieving our educational mission requires that we foster a campus environment that is safe and inclusive and allows for students to maximize their academic and personal potential."

According to the 2018 College Annual Security Report, reported instances of vandalism dropped to 20 cases in 2017, from 34 instances in 2016 and 32 in 2015.

"Details of an investigation, especially those that involve students, are protected under FERPA and cannot be shared under penalty of law," explains Brian Fidati, Director of Campus Safety/Police.

Fidati could not actually comment on the incident itself. However, while no suspects or other details have been released in this case, Fidati speaks to Campus Safety's procedures.

"The Campus Safety obligation in incidents such as this are limited to updating the final disposition of the case to either ″closed″ or ″referred.″ Closed would mean the investigation concluded with no further action being taken. Referred would mean that the case was referred to the college judicial process" explains Fidati.

If the case is referred, the affected students would go through the "Process and Procedure" outlined in Article VIII of the Student Code of Conduct, which could include sitting before a College Hearing Board or a Disciplinary Conference.

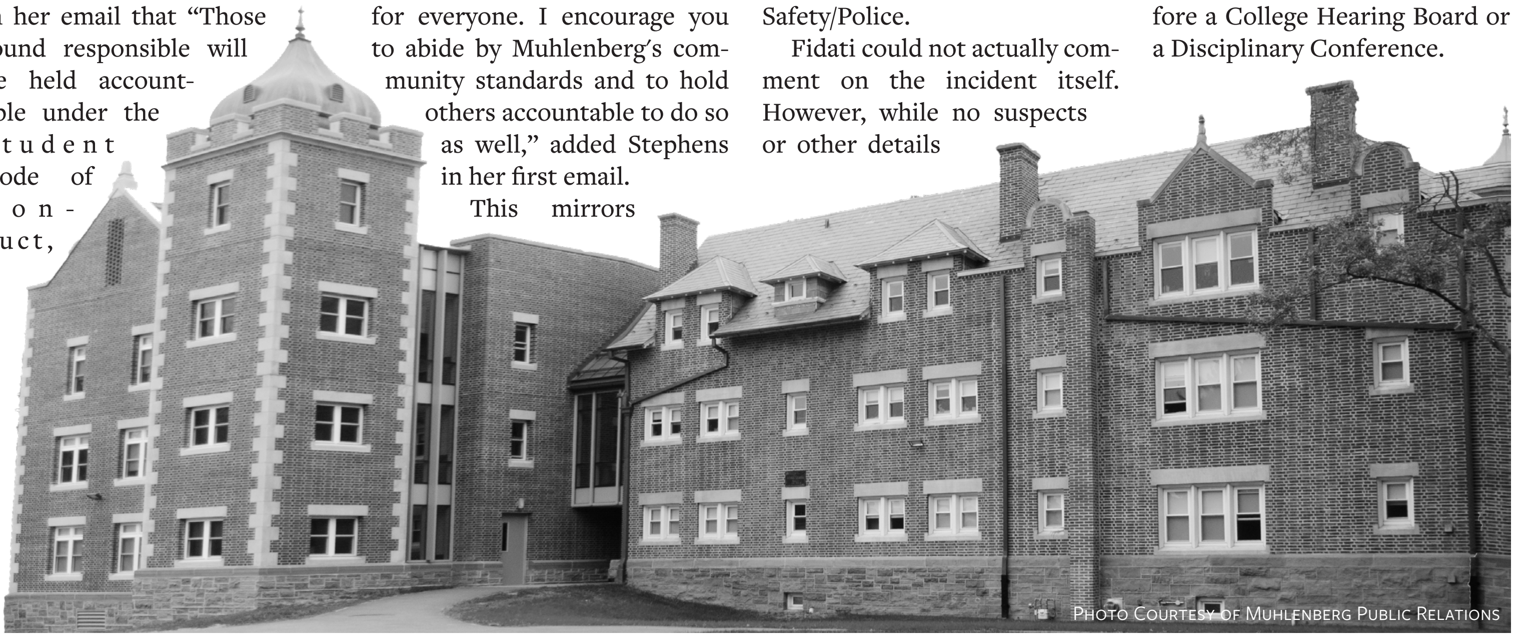


Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Public Relations

from **Brown** page 1

Calista Bender '20, who lived in a triple in Brown Hall her freshman year, agreed that her hall was quieter than her more recent residences in Martin Luther and Taylor hall, but in the long run Bender hasn't seen any difference between an all-female dorm or co-ed.

"I don't think it impacted me at all, living in a dorm that was all-female. I don't think that it made me feel any different than when I lived in ML with guys on the floor," said Bender. "So to me having an all female dorm is segregating to females, and the opposite of making everything gender neutral."

Laura Boll '20 also lived in Brown Hall her freshman year, but switched to Walz Hall in the spring semester. She liked Walz equally as much as Brown, but recognized the importance of an all-female space to other women on campus.

"It's nice to have an all-girls option for people who want that. I don't know why we don't have an all boys option, though," said Boll. "I know a lot of girls who want an all-girls space."

Brown has remained a women's dorm since the College adopted coeducation in 1957, according to research provided by Sabrina Roth '20, for her documentary research project. Roth named her documentary on the history of Brown Hall "A Sanctuary for Women."

"I think there's something to be said about the fact that it's an all-women's dorm now and the history behind that," said Roth, who has not lived in Brown Hall. "That was the only place they had for themselves on campus at a time when it was all pretty new."

"I'm not sure everyone knows the history of the building," Roth continued, "but it is important to note that it is a landmark for women at Muhlenberg and all around, because it was the first class of women at this college."

Survey questions ask students to rank on a 1-5 scale of strongly agree to strongly disagree the importance of an all-female residence hall on campus, whether or not an all-female dorm limits housing for male students, and whether or not it poses a barrier for transgender and non-binary students. The final question asks "If Brown Hall was available to all students, I would want to live there."

To receive a new survey contact Nicole Hammel, Director of Institutional Research at nicolehammel@muhlenberg.edu. Students who have any questions about the proposed policy can reach out to Stephens at courtneystephens@muhlenberg.edu.

"When the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful."

– Malala Yousafzai

finding her voice:

Sophie Treadwell's Machinal resonates through time

Photo Courtesy of Ken Eck

By Brooke Weber
Arts & Culture Editor

Sophie Treadwell's *Machinal* cannot be contained. There's no stopping that story, no end when the lights come up and the people get on their feet and the actors wipe away streaky tears as they bow. There's no blissful reprieve from reality, no relief at being released into the outside world. There's only a reverent hush, faces around you that can't quite pick themselves up from where they fell and the devastating knowledge that the costumed people on stage will have to relive all of this again and again and again over the next days. *Machinal.* Machine-like.

Of course, the actors' performances were anything but – running from Sept. 27 to 30, this first Mainstage was dynamic and passionate, centering some of the most discomfiting moments in one woman's life on a stark set that changed with the scenes to reflect each one's respective mood. Directed by Baker Artist-in-Residence Lou Jacob, *Machinal* was written in 1928 by progressive journalist Sophie Treadwell as a fictionalization of the trial of Ruth Snyder, who in the same year was executed by electric chair

see **Machinal** page 7

Canciones of model musicians

By Arielle Moss
Staff Writer

"The beauty of a master class is to have everyone engaged," said voice teacher Patricia Koch Budlong, who directed the Spanish Art Song Master Class.

The hour long master class was held in the recital hall at the Baker Center for the Arts, on Wednesday, Sept. 26. After auditioning last spring, four Muhlenberg vocal students were chosen to perform a Spanish song that they learned with their voice teachers.

The performers comprised both music and Spanish students. This gave them great practice for their performance in front of a group of high school students the following evening. Budlong gave them advice on how to improve their performances. For some of the students, it was their first time working with Budlong. Piano accompaniment was performed by Barbara Golden.

Budlong gave advice that did not only pertain to the singers, but also to the audience, such as not commenting on your work while you are doing it and how singers are geniuses; when they tell their brains to do something, their voices listen.

"We tell our brain what to do with our voice; it's like writing a code and letting it run," explained Budlong.

Soprano Julia Baker '19 sang "Olas Gigantes" ("Giant Waves"), composed by Manuel de Falla. The song is based on a dramatic poem that tells about a woman who was left by her lover and is contemplating walking into the sea during a hurricane to escape the suffering she feels.

Regardless of whether or not the audience members are able to understand Spanish, Baker's facial expressions and dynamics revealed the emotions of the piece. Baker has been singing since she was twelve years old, but this was her first time singing a Spanish song.

"I actually haven′t sung in Spanish before, but I flatter myself in thinking that I speak Italian conversationally … The romance languages are all relatively similar to one another, so the transition from Italian to Spanish music wasn′t a huge culture shock," said Baker, who takes weekly voice lessons with Budlong. "If anything, learning Italian and singing in Spanish has improved my knowledge of the English language more than my fluency in either language."

Soprano Hannah Polaski '21 sang "Cantares" by Joaquin Turina, which is about a woman who is tormented by her simultaneous fear and love for a man. Polaski said that she was nervous in the beginning, but began to feel more comfortable after a while. This Spanish piece taught her that singers need to be fully present within the story and emotions of the song in every note.

"Attending a master class really opens you up to the process of learning a song, and can help you look at your own singing differently. Performing in one can make you more comfortable with an audience and being vulnerable on stage, while also getting valuable feedback on your performance," said Polaski, who takes weekly voice lessons with Megan Durham.

Even though Polaski studied Spanish on and off during most of her life, she explained that the different phrasing of Spanish makes her have to think about every word, as opposed to English music where she tends to not spend as much time thinking about each individual phrase.

The master class not only benefited the four performers, but the audience as well; all learned and were very engaged, having had the opportunity to give feedback to the performers.

Audience member Marc Szechter '22 had never attended a master class before last Wednesday's program. As a student enrolled in music theory, he is required to attend a certain number of music department events. Szechter has been singing in choirs for a majority of his life, but decided to take formal vocal lessons for the first time when he arrived to Muhlenberg this semester.

"I learned a lot about how the way that one sings a particular passage can affect the emotion it conveys. One can sing the same notes twice with different dynamics and it can feel completely different each time," said Szechter.

The master class allowed even those who were not singing to learn some techniques for improving their performance.

"I really love the storytelling aspect of the performance; the combination of music and acting makes engaging art," said Polaski.

Artist of the Week: Emily Cooperstein

By Alana Noehrenberg
Contributing Writer

Emily Cooperstein '20, Psychology and Studio Art double major, currently has a lot on her plate, not just academically, but athletically and artistically as well. The junior is a key member of the Muhlenberg Track and Field team as a top sprinter and hurdler, and, along with making pieces for her art classes, she creates and sells stickers on the site Redbubble.

When asked how she decided that she was going to major in art, Cooperstein said, "Art has been a big help to me. Art has been my 'thing' throughout my life; it's a place to get out stress and express myself. When I came to college, I was not sure what I wanted to do. Now I'm thinking about becoming an art therapist because, before I got to college, I was thinking about just doing therapy for adolescents, but then I realized that art is a huge part of my life, and I asked myself 'why don't I put art into my career?' and I started looking into it. My art teacher in high school went to grad school for art therapy, and she recommended some programs and helped me a little bit with the process." She briefly paused, then continued, "I just thought that art therapy would be a really great choice for me, so that is my goal for after college."

Cooperstein's two majors crossed over very nicely during her first year seminar. "My FYS was actually about how art and psychology mix a lot. We looked at a lot of paintings and at the artists themselves and how their mental health and the way that they were affected their art. For my cluster I took psych of creativity, which was really cool because we learned about how you grew up — your environment, how your parents raised you, your education — affected your level of creativity. We also learned how even the light in the room, like if it was white light or yellow light, would affect your creativity. It was a great class." These courses will provide a solid basis for Cooperstein as she pursues a career in art therapy.

When asked about her inspiration for her art, Cooperstein replied, "It's changed a lot throughout my life. I think in high school, I got more into experimenting with light, so I did a whole series on my friends covered in sheets in charcoal and my goal was to not use line at all, and that actually turned out really well. But, recently I've gotten into more digital art. . ." she paused. Then, through a fit of giggles, said, "I don't know; I'm just really into skeletons right now, which is weird. I have a whole series which I did last year for Printmaking II on just animal skulls with organic and inorganic things on top. For one piece I used slime, which was neat."

Cooperstein's favorite art class at Muhlenberg so far has been Printmaking II; however, she states, "Drawing from Nature was really cool, because that helped me a lot with refining my drawing skills and also helped me to grow as an artist."

Although Cooperstein's favorite medium to work with is watercolor, she currently creates a lot of her pieces using various printmaking techniques and processes. "I concentrate in printmaking within my major, which is kind of weird for me," she laughed. "Printmaking is really, really cool though. I've gotten into it a lot within the past year. It's awesome because it's not just drawing on a page; it's drawing, it's painting, it's science — it's a cool mix, and I love it."

Allentown artists amaze ArtsFest audience

Cole Geissler / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Left, graffiti artist See TF paints alongside other artists along the shore of Lake Muhlenberg Saturday afternoon at the fifth Annual ArtsFest. Right, an ArtsFest visitor shows off his skills at the Cedar Beach Park skate park.

By Abigail Sherman
Contributing Writer

This past weekend, Cedar Beach Park was filled with guests as the fifth Annual Allentown ArtsFest took over. This three-days arts festival filled the park with hand-crafted art, family activities, three music stages, graffiti murals and lots of food, all provided by different local artists, breweries and vendors. ArtsFest continued its tradition of featuring and presenting one of a kind art experience.

The entire event is sponsored by The Alternative Gallery, a non-profit art center which provides a full art gallery, artist studio spaces, performance space and educational classes which are open to anyone. Christina Heater, volunteer for The Alternative Gallery and ArtsFest, has worked on ArtsFest for four years and loves how it has progressed and grown. "This year we sold out all our vendor spots; we didn't have room for anybody else," said Heater. "We have more volunteers coming on board, we have more sponsors. It grows exponentially every year."

Heater also elaborated on how she feels the event benefits the Allentown community, saying, "[The Alternative Gallery] already does a lot for the community. We do community block parties, clean-up parties. We offer arts classes to get kids off the streets and give them something to do. Then you've got the added things; this gives people a place to be. I'm awkward, I'm weird and I didn't have a place to go, but this is a place to go. Between here and [The Alternative] Gallery, everyone is accepted and has somewhere to go."

Janelle Hamscher, an artist, curator and one of the vendors at ArtsFest with her business Pure Sin, described her art and inspiration: "My jewelry is based on my love for cameo [necklaces], that being that they are creepy and classic. I inherited my grandmother's when she passed ... All my gemstone jewelry is based off of childhood memories of finding gems, and all the gems that I get are from a local shop in the valley called Bey's Rock Shop, which is family owned and operated."

Hamscher explained why she loves ArtsFest, saying it's about "putting myself out there, my art, my paintings and my jewelry. This is my life. It's about showing the community your fingerprint, how you feel. I'm a very expressive, abstract painter." A figure model for Muhlenberg, Hamscher was also thankful for our faculty. "I was trained, and I've learned a lot from the professors at Muhlenberg: Kevin Tuttle, Carol Heft, Emily Orzech, Ray Barnes, I've worked with all of them.

Street Poet Joe Holmes had the simplest set-up of all vendors, with just a typewriter and small table. Holmes' street poetry was one of the more interactive vendors. "Someone who is interested, maybe we talk, maybe they just read the sign. They give me a topic, I write them a poem, they look at it and decide what it's worth," said Holmes. "You can be a therapist without a license, avoid expensive years of schooling, people can frame your workup in your house, you can touch people's lives. You can be an anonymous shoulder to cry on, a clown to cheer someone up. You can speak for the dead."

Not only were visual and literary artists present, but there were also representatives from Allentown's performance community as well. Rachel Williams, a representative from AfterWords Actors Studio, explained the studio's purpose within the community, "AfterWords was started about a year ago by a woman named Kathy Patterson, a professional actress. She does adult-only classes for actors, scene-study, script analysis, and cold-read classes. She'll bring people from New York and Philadelphia to work with others. She also makes reels for actors and rents her space out as well."

Elaborating on the opportunities available to students, Williams said, "Every first Monday of the month there are Monologue Mondays. You can come in and work with professional actors and teachers, and read them your monologue, and they'll work with you free of charge. It's perfect for students. It's an extra layer of study, more experience."

Overall, ArtsFest was a perfect opportunity to engage with Allentown and escape the "Muhlenbubble" without having to go too far from home. Mark your calendars for Sept. 27-29 next year to check out all the amazing local artists that are available. Until then, reach out to The Alternative Gallery to find out how you can engage in the Allentown art scene.

FROM **MACHINAL** PAGE 5

after murdering her husband. According to dramaturg Alice Banta '21, the playwright was in the room for all of Snyder's trial and published *Machinal* shortly after its proceedings.

"I kept reminding myself, especially in moments of extreme emotion, that she was not me; that while I was telling her story, it was not my own."

The play itself follows nine episodes in the life of the Young Woman, who, under both real and imagined societal duress, reluctantly decides to marry her boss after he relentlessly pursues her for her beautiful hands. Still, she flinches at his slightest touch, and when he eventually comes to visit her in the hospital after the birth of their child, she becomes physically sick at his constant didacticism and punchy (yet completely oblivious) life advice. Years later, the Young Woman meets a Man in a speakeasy, with whom she is immediately taken despite the fact that he openly claims to have murdered two Mexican bandits in order to "get free" from their grasp. In fact, it is this aspect of the Man that seems to draw the Young Woman to him, along with the genuine tactile and sexual desire he rouses within her: his tale of "getting free" rings in the Young Woman's head for months during their affair, ultimately driving the Young Woman to kill her still-grotesque husband in the same brutal way that the Man killed the bandits. She thus achieves freedom from her husband's condescending tyranny but is put on trial and ultimately executed for murder in the play's horrific final scene.

Julia Baker '19 brought to life the Young Woman, an astonishingly difficult role that left audience members wondering how she managed to enter the character's headspace on a daily basis. With each performance, Baker faced the task of believably enacting everything from haunting fear to bottomless despair to bubbling joy peppered with frenetic monologues made up of only a few coherent words wrapped in repetitive and cyclical patterns of thought.

"In all honesty, I worked really hard at this. [The Young Woman] really mattered to me," said Baker. "I guess I feel pretty lucky to have had such a strong support system to fall back on as well. This may be a bit pretentious, but Young Woman occupied a lot of my waking thought. I literally couldn't get her off of my mind. It was a bit consuming, which was actually a little scary. But I feel so lucky that my friends, family, Lou [Jacob] and Matt Beaune ['20] were endlessly there for me with constant support in the wake of this role. I really wanted to understand her, so I took on a lot of her weight and gravity. Returning back to my own life was maybe sometimes a bit jumbled, but I kept reminding myself, especially in moments of extreme emotion, that she was not me; that while I was telling her story, it was not my own. I feel so indebted to this story, though. This woman is endlessly and ceaselessly amazing, because she fights."

And fight she does – Baker's character is most often directly in conflict with herself, with the internalized voice of society that's been incorporated into her mind. "He's the only man that's ever asked me," she nervously tells her mother of her boss's marriage proposal. "And I suppose I got to marry somebody – all girls do." As the Young Woman talks of the man who will become her husband and later recoils from his every move, Baker invokes in the audience an extraordinary sense of dread. Baker's voice quavers, her face creased in a mask of misery. We, too, come to jump when her husband approaches her. We, too, beg for a reprieve from his unceasing paternalism. Though his on-stage touches are never expressly violent, we understand her repulsion and feel the pain of it sharp and hot at the bottom of our stomachs.

Though these tense scenes in which the Young Woman teeters on the edge of sanity were certainly powerful, perhaps the scene that left the biggest impression on the audience was one that showcased her three-dimensional personality uncensored by horror, as illustrated here by audience member Kayla Robinson '20.

Photo Courtesy of Ken Eck

"My favorite part to watch was the scene in the bar, where there were three 'couples' at three different tables, all having very different conversations," Robinson said. "It was interesting to see [The Young Woman] as a 'normal' person, not panicking and inside her head, but more in the moment and enjoying herself, and it was interesting to contrast that to her other scenes as well as the conversations happening at nearby tables, whether they were funny or serious ... It felt kind of like a reminder that life goes on both with you and other people, even while you may not be feeling the best, and also a reminder that how you seem on the outside (cool, flirtatious) and how you feel on the inside (panicked, trapped, afraid) can be very different."

According to Christian Gutierrez '19, who played the charming but dubious Man, the show's ensemble miraculously managed to craft both lighter and more intense scenes, all of which required immense amounts of character work, in just a month of rehearsal.

"The rehearsal process was very quick," said Guttierez. "A month of rehearsal seems like a lot, but when you're dealing with a show that has so many parts and mysteries, you wish you had more time, although collaborating with Lou made it painless and productive, and I always felt like we were in good hands."

Still, the process wasn't always painless, especially for Baker whilst constructing the show's final scene. In the ninth episode, the Young Woman sits drained as a priest throws rote phrases from the Bible at her. When two male officers shave part of her head, she fights back. "I will not be submitted!" she cries, so guttural even recalling it makes my heart beat faster. She is held down, her mouth forcibly covered by a guard's hand. Tears streaming down her face, she asks the priest why she was born and where she will be after death, attempting to reconcile her personal heavens and hells with her more existential fate. Soon after, she is moved to the electric chair, her struggling arms held fast.

"Finding the release of that is really hard, because I've never been in a situation in which I know that I'm going to die," Baker said. It's a really frightening place to be in. And to go there with so many people watching ... it's nerve-wracking. But I kept reminding myself that this woman tries and tries and tries to make sense of it all; it seems as though this is her catharsis of *finally* vocalizing the questions she's pent up inside herself for so long, and they simply pour out of her ... Finding her voice aided tremendously in this scene."

Ultimately, though this play is ninety years old, it contains unbelievably current ideas, perhaps articulated best by Baker herself:

"In light of the Kavanaugh case, I find this play particularly relevant. The violation of women's bodies in the context of men in power is entrenched within this piece, and Dr. Ford's immense bravery in coming forth with her story inspired me immensely. Women are *still* being violated. Women are *still* oppressed for seeking something other than marriage and family life. Women are *still* perceived by society as inferior to men. This play is not the Kavanaugh case. But the relevancy of a 90-year-old dialogue replicated in a modern courtroom enrages me. The injustice against women's bodies plague the quotidian. I am so incredibly proud to know that there are women like Dr. Ford who are willing to stand up to their oppressors and attempt to right the endless wrong enacted against women systematically for *centuries.* Dr. Ford is strong, because she is honest and brave. I am inspired by women like her. Any translation of that into any piece of theater I may be lucky enough to perform in ... well, that's why I do it."

"This play is not the Kavanaugh case. But the relevancy of a 90-year-old dialogue replicated in a modern courtroom enrages me."

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY/OPINIONS&EDITORIALS

"My life is over"

A case against Kavanaugh

It's midnight of midterms week. You're sitting in the far side of the Light Lounge, earbuds in to drown out the sound of the TV behind you, furiously typing into the Canvas practice quiz due before your Bio 101 exam tomorrow. Fingers flying, brain numbed by your Starbucks energy drink, your knee twitching at Flash-like pace under the table, you blast through the questions and hit submit. You sit back in your chair, seeing before you the pile of grad school applications and internship offers slowly dwindle before your eyes as the computer spits back your results- 64 percent.

If I fail this exam, my life is over you mutter to yourself, unconsciously echoing the TV behind you.

My life is over, thought Dr. Christine Balsey Ford as she stood at the podium, a whisp of hair sliding over the edge of her glasses, aware of unsupporting eyes on her as as she describes how supreme court nominee Brett Kavanaugh assaulted her, retelling the moment when at 15-years old she thought that exact same thing. *My life is over.*

My life is over, spits Kavanaugh, taking an angry sniff. And *you* ruined it, he says, staring down the camera broadcasting his allegations of his teenage sexual assault around the world.

Amidst this obvious political turmoil that has become the Kavanaugh hearings, one common defense of the Supreme Court nominee has emerged: that the actions of his 17-year old self should not affect his 53-year old self. And teens — and college students — are listening.

"These statements were intended to diminish the seriousness of what Ford alleged happened, but, intentionally or not, they also diminish a whole category of humans: teenagers," reports Joe Pinsker in his Sept. 21 piece in The Atlantic called "What Teens Think of the Kavanaugh Accusations."

″Maybe it was 35 years ago and he was 17, but his past, that could be my tomorrow," one girl told Teen Vogue. "That could be my friend′s tomorrow. That could be this weekend for the friends that I have, in their basement, in my town."

Teenagers across the nation are listening to their parents, family members, professors, dismiss the actions of an adult being initiated in one of the highest-respected positions — all because he was their age when he commited the crime.

Teens who are younger than Kavanaugh have been jailed, killed for lesser offenses. It happened to Trayvon Martin at 17. Emmett Till at 14. Tamir Rice; at 12, his life was over. The mentality that Kavanaugh, at 17, was just a boy, compared with the lifelong consequences boys and young men of color must pay for ignorance and racism. Rice's life ended for playing with a toy gun. The man who called the cops on him didn't see him as a boy at age 12. Stereotypes about race cut his life short, yet Kavanaugh, whose real violence has been testified under oath for with 100 percent certainty, is still doubtful to some. His life is not over.

On the flip side, the Parkland high school students began a national movement against gun violence at the ages of 16 and 17, same age as Kavanaugh was when he allegedly assaulted Ford. In short, it's not the age that causes the crime — it's the person. The person who may be looking over sexual assault cases for the rest of his life.

While both Ford and Kavanaugh have no physical proof of the alleged crime, today's teenagers need to worry about screenshots, about iPhone GPS, someone's momentary SnapChat. A Facebook tag showing them at the party. Burn-book style blogs about others that, when discovered, lose the poster their scholarship. If a single bad post can cost someone their life, why can't an accusation of violence?

It is 1:05 a.m. in the Light Lounge. Few students have stayed this late into the next calendar day. Sleep is a higher priority to most. CNN still analyzes and discusses the hearing. You pack up, your backpack heavy with textbooks, notecards, continuing on with your life.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

Letters to the Editor

The deserved death of Will Wamser

This past week, the Muhlenberg community was shook by The Muhlenberg's Weekly's own Opinion and Editorial Section Editor, William Wamser, taking an early, undeserved and unexpected retirement. I am an old white man and my opinions matter. I have lived in Allentown forever and I'm done quietly yelling at my horrible wife about all Mr. Wamser's tomfoolery. I will be silenced no more!!! I am an avid reader of the Muhlenberg Weekly and week after week I would toil through Mr. Wamser's quote unquote arn'ticals. Like articles but they aren't. Now that is the kind of content this paper should be running. It's funny but it also means something.

My greatest qualm with Will Wamser's work is that it had no meaning. Just jokes for jokes sake. His articles are the ravings of a mad man. Where was the substance? Where was the love? Mr. Wamser's articles never said anything and would just ramble on and on and on and on and on and on and on and on. I've never stepped away from a Wamser piece feeling more whole. I mean, he just throws words together and calls that a joke? COME ON!! Let's look at some examples. In one article, he said "Hermit the frog," in another he called our 4thpresident "Kevin James Madison." These are all absurd statements, where the context does not even matter, you just know they are bad.

And can we talk about the lying? This kid just says things and thinks he will trick us, how is that fair? First, he talks about his wife, who, surprise surprise, doesn't exist. Then he brings in some fake kids to force his liberal agenda on everyone. On multiple occasions, he has claimed that Shaun White was his best friend, there is zero evidence of this. And lest we forget the whole mayoral incident. Allentown was going through its greatest power struggle in its existence and Mr. Wamser just saw it as an opportunity to make a joke at their expense.

I hate Will Wamser, he is the bane of my existence and I am ecstatic for the Weekly to be rid of him. I wish all the harm in the world comes to him and the company he keeps. Where does he get off? Writing funny articles? I cannot stand for it, even though they were a break from the onslaught of the news cycle. Sure, the articles were the lone beam of light in my otherwise dismal life, but that's no excuse for him leaving. I mean, how could he? I just miss him so much. The weeks grow longer and longer with every day he's gone and while I curse his name at night, I need him back at The Weekly. I have been cruel, but it helps with the pain of him leaving. If you agree hit me up on facebook and we can reminisce about our favorite Mr. Wamser moments.

– BILL BAMSER

How the angel has fallen

I apologize for the quality of this article for I am not a writer, but when I heard the news I had to say something.

I am an elementary school teacher from Milwaukee and have been reading The Weekly for the past two years. I discovered The Weekly when one of my students slid the paper across my desk with the page open to an article titled "Austin Powers is my bag," and I was hooked. Will Wamser's retirement from The Weekly has brought me to tears. I love him and what he does, for not just me, but the whole world.

It has been difficult to smile since Mr. Wamser's retirement. The way his articles just run from joke to joke and feel endless have brought me much joy. His articles are the ravings of a genius. Mr. Wamser's writing is devoid of meaning as a commentary on our current news cycle. The news says nothing, so why should Mr. Wamser? He gives the world what it deserves. Funny, poignant, interesting articles which turn a mirror on society and the man.

I have been saved by Mr. Wamser and his magical words. At this time two years ago I was walking down the middle of the street, when this 19-wheeler came out of nowhere and almost ran me over. That's when I heard it, the voice of an angel, and the voice of an author. Will Wamser began to yell "articles are just arn'ticles that are," a famous quote of his. I turned to see quite a handsome man and fell over laughing at his great joke. I fell to the ground as the truck passed over me and my life was spared. When I arose, Mr. Wamser was gone. He will always be in my heart.

This boy has such a way with words. He creates a whole world with every article. Look at his article "I've got the most Olympic gold stars," in which he refers to Shaun White as his best friend. In this article Mr. Wamser is creating a world in which anyone can be friends with Shaun White, and that's a world I want to live in. Reality is no longer a factor in these articles and allow for a journey into an alternate dimension where a boy can run for mayor. If given the choice I would live in any fantasy created by Mr. Wamser, but they have been ripped away from me. I am forced to return to reality for the rest of my days, no goodbyes, no farewells, no nothing.

I love Will Wamser. He is the point of my existence.

Mr. Wamser is doing God's work with these articles and if the Muhlenberg Weekly knew anything they would hold onto him as best they can. But it appears it is too late for that. If you agree hit me up on Facebook and we can reminisce about our favorite Mr. Wamser moments.

– KILE KAMSER

The value of a liberal arts education

Andrew Revkin's Anthropocene

By Olivia Gaynor
Contributing Writer

The value of a liberal arts education is unmatched. In my sixth grade homeroom, I was given a pink piece of paper. It had multiple questions on it, but the only one I remember is this: Are social studies, English, math and science related? I wrote down, "yes, but I'm not sure how."

It took up until Muhlenberg for me to realize how all of these seemingly separate entities were truly one. It has always been difficult for me to see the need to learn chemistry and physics if I was not planning on using these skills in my future endeavors.

However, "The Good, the Bad and the Anthropocene" by Andrew Revkin, the Strategic Advisor for Environmental and Science Journalism at National Geographic, proved how the social and hard sciences are meticulously intertwined.

The first time I perked up during the lecture was when he mentioned interviewing sociologists and psychologists for one of his articles. As a sociology minor, I found comfort in his words. Revkin explained that tribal affiliations are more important than facts.

These affiliations come from living and interacting within institutions. These beliefs highlight the deeper issues of who people truly are. How do people gain these insights? Sociology is a discipline that relies heavily on the idea that institutions are what influences people's perspectives.

Revkin's talk of science was bigger than climate change. He brought forward the idea of communication.

For example, W.E.B DuBois grew up in New England where racism was less prevalent than in the south. Based on his experiences in New England, his mentality in his early years was the idea of "picking oneself up by the bootstraps" and that all one had to do was work hard to make it in the United States.

It was not until he went to school at Fisk University in Tennessee, a historically black university, where his ideas drastically changed as he witnessed lynchings and blatant racism.

The same thing goes with climate change. Revkin showed a video of a group from Oklahoma who had very different ideas on climate change than many of us who come from liberal schools and communities. With so much research behind the truth of climate change, how could these people truly believe it isn't a real problem?

The institutions influencing their ideas included religious as well as industrial. Some of their answers included, "If there's no oil field there's no jobs," "We tend to be very conservative" and "You might say the environment is perfect today because God totally controls the environment."

They believed that God would fix things. That being said, these same people, approximately 65 percent, were also aware that carbon dioxide is a pollutant. They understand the need for solar power and how over-farming created the Dust Bowl.

They have conflicting ideas because of their community and religious institutions. However, they are smart people who grasp the environmental consequences. Without knowledge of the institutions which dictate many people's ideas, conversation and understanding would not happen.

Revkin's talk of science was bigger than climate change. He brought forward the idea of communication. He introduced the idea of interdisciplinary study. He stepped outside of the hard sciences and through this gained more knowledge on how to talk about climate change to a range of people. It is not always about convincing, but instead about listening and learning from others.

Corporations don't care about social justice — just profit

By Kenzie Richards
Contributing Writer

Like most political situations in America, it seems like there are only two sides on how to treat Nike′s advertisement with Colin Kaepernick, the football player known for speaking out about the very real problem of police brutality in our country. One side hates Nike and bravely burns merchandise they already purchased from the company to make some kind of point, and the other side shouts their love of a multi-billion dollar company from the rooftops and in some cases, intentionally buys more sweatshop-made Nike products to show their ″support.″ Well, here′s an alternate viewpoint -- Kaepernick is the one to be praised here, not the corporation that decided they could cash in on a social justice movement by making an ad about it.

I can′t believe I have to say this, but corporations don′t really care about equality. The only thing they care about is making a profit. And what better way to make a profit, in the age of the ″#Resistance,″ than making some kind of vague reference to equality, feminism, or diversity in advertising to make people think they actually care about these things? The "counter-protestors″ barely matter here -- what real purpose did all the reporting on people burning their shoes do except lodge the Nike brand name in our skulls, to be dredged up the next time we want to go shoe shopping? Their supposed alignment with the "Resistance" is just a part of the scam.

Did you know that Nike′s market value went up by billions since the Kapernick ad? It′s doubtful that any of that money is going to their overseas workers, who are paid the US equivalent of $3.50 a day. Did you also know that Nike continues to donate equal amounts of money to both political parties, both of who have proven time and time again that they will put the interests of a corporation over the interests of struggling laborers, both in America and overseas?

I can't believe I have to say this, but corporations don't really care about equality.

Let′s be clear, though -- Nike isn′t the only one doing this. Remember all those Super Bowl ads that asserted that they support the vague notion of ″equality″? If corporations actually cared about equality, they wouldn′t be built on the backs of what are essentially slave laborers. This isn′t even mentioning the myriad sexual abuse and mass suicides that occur in these sweatshops.

The obvious and tired response to this is ″this is just the way things are -- companies need to employ poorly-paid workers or else they wouldn′t make a profit.″ No. This is the way things are because we have accepted that profit should be valued above the livelihood of people. I really doubt that a billion more dollars cut out of the wages of hard-working seamstresses and factory workers will make a difference to the CEO hoarding it out of the belief that he ″deserves it.″

You also might say ″Nike sucks, but it′s cool that they′re promoting their support of such a divisive issue.″ What does it say about our country that we have to rely on corporations to set the status quo for us? No one is going to change their mind on this matter because of an advertisement, so the purpose of the ad is to sell things to people who already believe in the message. It′s like people have forgotten that actual protests, planned and organized by people, should be praised here, not corporations who slap a slogan onto a picture.

Muhlenberg is a very privileged little bubble. Most of us may not have the time to take part in labor protests or actual protests against police brutality, but at the very least, second guess the ″Resistance″ messaging you see in advertisements. Corporations are not your allies.

GRAPHIC OPINIONS

Shakespeare, magic and drama

By Melissa Reph
News Editor

The internet has made it extremely easy for creators to self publish and with this capability many artists have turned to creating webcomics. Most are free to read, while some artist do ask for readers to consider donating to a patreon, and span a wide variety of genres and art styles. One of my favorites is Weird Sisters by Nat Roze, weirdsisterscomic.tumblr.com. It combines a clever, fun and intriguing plot with a bright and bold art style.

Weird Sisters follows three main characters -- Juli, Dez and Beth -- in their fall semester at college. Beth is seeking to rush Psi Xi Kappa, the sorority Juli and Dez are both members of and while she's hit it off with Juli, Beth and Dez might just kill each other yet. Oh, and their sorority is also a coven of witches and definitely deeply involved in a rivalry with another sorority/coven on campus. If that weren't enough Juli is dealing with relationship drama, Beth is trying to help her friends with a prophecy involving their soccer team and Dez is trying to get their friend Ophelia out of a trance she's stuck in.

While their problems seem to range from the mundane to the magical it's the characters that I believe truly makes the comic. Every single one of them is a Shakespeare character. Juli is Juliet, the only person she claims she'll ever love is her cat Romeo. Although she recently struck up a friendship with a boy of the same name. Beth was formerly known as Macbeth and she's trying to help Max and Banquo secure their places as soccer captains over Duncan King. Cleopatra is president of Psi Xi Kappa, Laertes keeps asking Dez about his sister Ophelia, Rosalind is president of the rival sorority and broke both Juli and Romeo's hearts and she's who they bonded over.

While all come from well known stories and make nods to those origins, including a scene in which Beth claims a dagger is calling out to her to buy it, the combination of so many different characters and original plot ensures that this is a twist on Shakespeare that has yet to be seen. Perfect for us college kids who grew up reading Harry Potter and are looking for a little more magic in our lives, Weird Sisters is a study break must read. At the very least your life can't possibly be more tragic than theirs.

Late game, tough luck

Strong defense and timely scoring helps Mules stay undefeated in conference play

By Max Shapiro
Sports Editor

Despite an advantage in shots, the men's soccer team came up a goal short in their search for their first Centennial Conference win of the season, losing to regionally ranked Johns Hopkins 1-0 on Sept. 29.

The squad totaled a 14-8 advantage in shots and squandered several close chances both throughout the game, and when trying to equalize in the closing minutes. Forward Kevin Hagan '20 hit the left post with a header just minutes before the Blue Jays found the back of the net in the seventy-ninth minute.

Matt Athanas-Linden '20 forced the Hopkins keeper to make a diving save with just under three minutes left to hold the lead, and a shot by Zach Cimring '20 off of the ensuing corner kick sailed just high. Midfielder Pete Luther '20 tallied four shots in the match, two of them on target, but like the rest of his teammates, couldn't find the back of the net.

"Offensively we have the talent, we are just waiting for things to click. We're moving guys around and trying new things," said midfielder Mark Winter '21.

"Scoring is the point of the game so we're striving to be better in the final third," said Winter. "The last couple results have been disappointing because we believe we could have beaten all those teams. Going forward we still believe that we're a solid team and we hope to rally and contend for the conference."

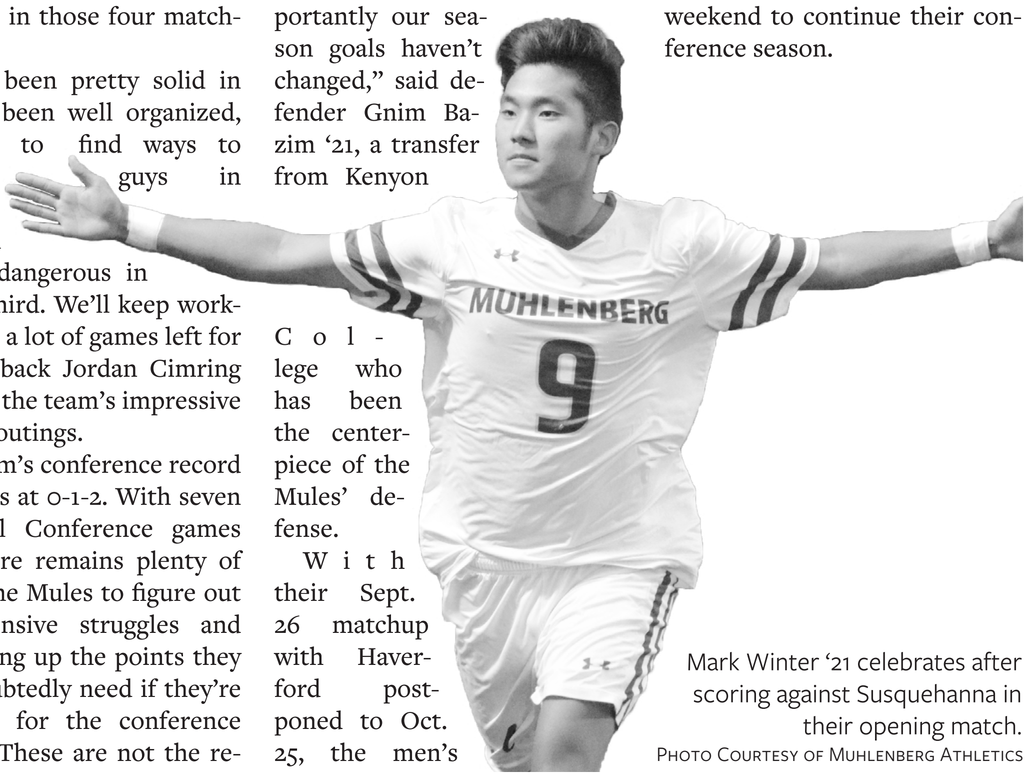
While their offensive woes continue, the Mules defense has done its best to keep them in games. The men's last five games have been decided by one goal or less, as have six of their eight matches so far.

Jordan Schreer '19 made three saves against Hopkins, and the Mules have given up just two goals in their last four games. However, they've only been able to come up with two draws and two losses in those four matches.

"We've been pretty solid in the back, been well organized, just need to find ways to get more guys in the attack and be more dangerous in the final third. We'll keep working there's a lot of games left for us," right-back Jordan Cimring '20 said of the team's impressive defensive outings.

The team's conference record now stands at 0-1-2. With seven Centennial Conference games to go, there remains plenty of time for the Mules to figure out their offensive struggles and start racking up the points they will undoubtedly need if they're to qualify for the conference playoffs. "These are not the results we wanted these past few games but our season is far from over. We have learned a lot from our ties and losses but more importantly our season goals haven't changed," said defender Gnim Bazim '21, a transfer from Kenyon College who has been the centerpiece of the Mules' defense.

With their Sept. 26 matchup with Haverford postponed to Oct. 25, the men's next test will come in a non-conference game against Rowan on Oct. 3 in Glassboro, NJ. They will travel to Gettysburg on the weekend to continue their conference season.



Mark Winter '21 celebrates after scoring against Susquehanna in their opening match.
Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Women's Soccer bounces back against Bryn Mawr

Lady Mules even conference record before facing Hopkins

By Noah Sellinger
Contributing Writer

With their record currently standing at 4-4-1 the Muhlenberg Women's soccer team is by no means content as their season winds down and the tension escalates. They faced off against Bryn Mawr College on Oct. 2 and came away with a dominant 2-0 win. Makenzie O'Brien '19 tallied assists on both goals, and the Mules totaled a 27-3 advantage in shots without allowing a shot on goal.

> **"For Hopkins we will need to get the ball in their half and try to create as many shots as we can just like we did against Bryn Mawr."**

MUHLENBERG
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DIPLOMATS
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Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Makenzie O'Brien '19 collected two assists in the Mules' win over the Bryn Mawr Owls.

Although the steep shot differential the players on the Mules were impressed with the improvement of their opponent, who the Mules had outscored the Owls 18-0 since 2012. "Bryn Mawr had a lot of freshman this year that made an impact and they have a fairly new coach that really knows how to work well with the girls that he was handed," said O'Brien. "This year they definitely were better at connecting passes and creating off the ball movement. They really focused on having quick restarts off of throw ins and free kicks which often worked to their advantage. They often played the quick short pass when they got free kicks which allowed them to build up momentum and create passes."

In a defensively tough game on Sept. 22, the Mules came up short 1-0 against Dickinson after giving up a goal in the 83rd minute. Dickinson, coming off a win against nationally ranked Swarthmore could not be denied a victory in this contest and with stellar defense held off all five of the Mules shots.

The women started the game off strong where all their five shots came, unfortunately after halftime they were not able to muster up any offense and were held to zero shots in the second half. The team, currently tied for fifth in the Centennial Conference rankings have big games against second ranked Johns Hopkins and Ursinus.

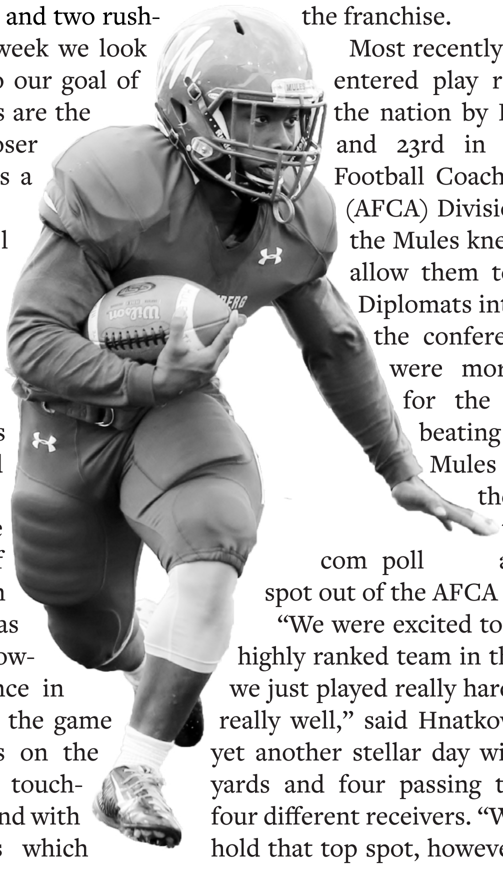
"For us to beat Hopkins we will need to keep the ball out of our half as much as possible. During the Dickinson game we struggled to get the ball out of our end of the field and we were unable to create offensive opportunities," said O'Brien. "For Hopkins we will need to get the ball in their half and try to create as many shots as we can just like we did against Bryn Mawr. We also know that they have some speed up top and therefore we need to be careful to not dive in on them defensively and have a good defensive shape," O'Brien added.

At the halfway point of the season three Mules are tied for the most goals on the team with two. Danni Steigerwald '20, Mia Mulin '21, and Isabel Schwartz '21 have all scored twice this season. Leading the team in assists is Cortney Blake '21 with two passes that led to scores. With an impressive 1.13 goals per game in comparison to their opponents .88 goals per game the Mules look to be in good shape ahead of the final stretch where the bulk of their centennial conference play will occur.

Making the playoffs is a very attainable goal the Mules have. The landscape of the division leaves the Mules with games against three teams that currently are in the top five and two that aren't. With a top five finish punching a team's ticket into to Conference Tournament beating McDaniel - the team currently tied with the Mules - will be key. Johns Hopkins and Swarthmore sit atop the standings this season, and have combined to win every conference tournament since 2013. Muhlenberg's last tournament title was in 2003 under the leadership of Leslie Benintend. Muhlenberg has not reached the championship since.

The Muhlenberg-Hopkins matchup will take place on Oct 6th at 1:00 p.m. over the college's fall break.

FROM **FOOTBALL** PAGE 12



110 yards on the ground and two rushing touchdowns. “Each week we look to get one step closer to our goal of a championship and wins are the only way we can move closer and closer to our goal as a team.”

Quarterback Michael Hnatkowsky ‘21 threw for two touchdowns in the first quarter, which ended with the Mules winning narrowly by seven points. The Mules would protect their lead for the remainder of the game, earning a three touchdown margin of victory over a Franklin & Marshall squad that has been regarded as a powerhouse in the conference in 2018. Hnatkowski ended the game with 1012 passing yards on the season and 10 passing touchdowns. He is on pace to end with 25 passing touchdowns which would be tied for the most passing TD’s by a Mules quarterback in the history of the franchise.

Most recently the Diplomats entered play ranked 24th in the nation by D3football.com and 23rd in the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) Division III poll. But the Mules knew a win would allow them to leapfrog the Diplomats into first place in the conference, and they were more than ready for the challenge. By beating the Dips, the Mules jumped up to the 24th spot in the D3football.com poll and are one spot out of the AFCA poll.

“We were excited to go play such a highly ranked team in the country and we just played really hard and executed really well,” said Hnatkowsky, who had yet another stellar day with 271 passing yards and four passing touchdowns to four different receivers. “We’re excited to hold that top spot, however, I believe we are focused on what we do and we are just going to try to get another win this weekend against Ursinus.”

In previous seasons, the Mules have had to look up in the conference standings, whether it is to Franklin & Marshall or to out-of-state rival Johns Hopkins. Although the team is now in a rare position as sole leaders of the Centennial Conference, the team does not view this accomplishment as something that will add a greater amount of pressure to the players and coaching staff.

“We are hopeful that our team isn’t focused on where we are in the standings no matter where we are.”

“We feel no pressure at all,” said Diggs. “We know that each and every game in the Centennial Conference is going to be a dogfight so for us to remain at the top we know that our preparation and focus must be there on a weekly basis or else we could jeopardize our opportunity at achieving our goal.”

Diggs said maintaining focus on the road ahead is key. “We are going to treat next week’s game like any other game and prepare with laser focus and great concentration. We have a formidable foe in front of us each week so we have no time to slack off in our preparation.”

Coach Milne echoed the sentiments of Diggs, emphasizing that the team strives to put in the same amount of effort into each practice and game, regardless of their place in the standings.

“We are hopeful that our team isn’t focused on where we are in the standings no matter where we are,” said Milne. “We strive for daily improvement and know that what we did this weekend against Franklin & Marshall is no indication of what will need to be done this weekend. Our goal was to make the next game the biggest game of the season, that goal is not about who we play but about what we have accomplished to make this week the biggest game of the season.”

Up next for the Mules is a matchup against the 3-1 Ursinus College Bears, in Collegeville, PA on Oct. 6th.

FROM **VOLLEYBALL** PAGE 12

time out on the town.

The unique experience provided plenty of memories the women will hold on to for a long time.

Touring U.S. Bank Stadium - the state-of-the-art home of the Minnesota Vikings opened in 2016 - was a highlight for Boll. “On our private tour we were able to run around on the field venture into the private rooms and clubs and explore the Viking’s locker room.”

Enesdvet said, “It′s great to spend time together off campus and do new things like go kart racing, tour the vikings stadium and explore new places to eat,” Although first year head coach Amanda Krampf did not plan the matches the Mules would play in during the team’s travels she enjoyed planning out the off-court team bonding activities her team participated in when they weren’t in the gym too.

On the court the Mules had no reason to step on their departing flight disappointed. Despite going 1-2, they playing two games to a decisive fifth set against three opponents who entered the matches with a combined record of 40-11. “The teams we saw in Minnesota were strong all around. We had to fight for every point,” said Krampf. “The trip was great preparation for the remainder of the season,” added Krampf.

Enestvedt commented on the opportunity to play new teams, but see some familiar faces. “It′s always fun to play new teams, and I was lucky enough to know some of the student-athletes on the teams we played from my high school and club teams back home.” Boll agreed, explaining much the team has grown since her time at Muhlenberg, “I think that this weekend, facing teams we’ve never seen before, was a strong indicator with how far we’ve come.”

The remainder of the season Krampf spoke of is critical for the Mules, who can not afford to let any games slip away in a loaded 2018 Centennial Conference. The high level of competition in the Midwest emulates much of what the Mules will return home to. Two undefeated teams still remain atop the league (Franklin & Marshall and Johns Hopkins are 4-0) and the Mules are one of four teams with only one loss (Gettysburg, McDaniel, and Swarthmore are all 3-1). Even with a 2-1 record in conference play Muhlenberg find themselves sixth in the strong Centennial. Out of the six top teams the Mules have only played Franklin & Marshall thus far, losing three sets to one.

“The competition was tough, with us only winning one of our games but the team is not disappointed in how we played.”

Krampf remains confident. “I think as a team we learned a lot about where our current strengths are. We were also able to focus on what we need to improve heading into the remainder of our conference schedule.”

Johns Hopkins rolls into Allentown on Saturday Oct. 6th where a Mules upset can go a long way into determining the the Centennial Conference playoff picture.

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Morgan Tietz ‘21 defends a Franklin & Marshall attacker during the Mules’ upset over the ranked opponent.

FROM **FIELD HOCKEY** PAGE 12

no time to open up the scoring. At the one minute and twenty-eight second mark, the ladies netted the first goal off the stick of captain Stephi Rydgren ‘19 assisted from Emily Davis ‘19.

It wouldn’t be until the second period when the Red Devils settled the score. The game would remain tied and extra time would be needed to put an end to the match. After two highly seven-on-seven overtime periods a penalty shootout was required.

The Red Devils and Mules went back and forth, but the Devils could not score once. Segrave made four clutch stops and Rydgren finally put an end to it all to give the Mules the 2-1 victory making for a fun filled ride home from Carlisle.

Rydgren is currently the team leader in goals (3) and points (6). Including the score at Dickinson, Rydgren is also responsible for the game winning goal against Franklin & Marshall.

“Team bonding, knowing where each other are on the field, and our energy have really been the main things that have really contributed to our recent success” Segrave said of why she thinks her squad has been so successful.

“We must attack offensively, find our flow, keep up with our opponent, and not let them get ahead.”

To keep fresh the Mules played an out of conference friendly on Friday Sept. 28, to take on the 9-1 and 11th ranked Montclair State University Red Hawks. The Red Hawks would prove to be a challenging opponent as they started strong an earlier 1-0 and would later add on another at the fifty-fourth minute.

The Mules would answer back with a goal of their own from Rydgren with the assist coming from freshman Sarah Raab ‘22. However, it wouldn’t be enough as the team would fall 2-1, bringing their overall record to 3-5. To find success in their next game and the rest of the season Segrave made it clear “we need to set the tone of the game. We must attack offensively, find our flow, keep up with our opponent, and not let them get ahead.”

On Wednesday Oct. 3rd the women travel to Bryn Mawr to take on the ninth place Owls in a Centennial Conference matchup.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Mules stomp Diplomats

Muhlenberg overtakes nationally ranked opponent to claim top spot in Centennial

By Alex Horowitz
Contributing Writer

In a matchup between two of the Centennial Conference's top teams, it was the home squad that came away with the dominant victory.

"Our guys are only given one opportunity a week to showcase their talents and being at home in front of friends and family is really important to them," said Head Coach Nate Milne, in response to being asked about why his Mules play so well on their home turf. With the win, Milne remains undefeated as a head coach.

The Muhlenberg Mules continued their winning ways in the 2018 season, earning a dominant 42-21 victory over Centennial Conference rival and previously undefeated Franklin & Marshall. With the win, the Mules (4-0) jumped into sole possession of first place in the conference and have entered conversation as one of the top teams in all of Division III college football. The 4-0 start is the best since 2008.

"This win was a huge one for us because it puts us one step closer to our goal," said running back James Diggs '21, who posted one of the best games of his career with

see **Football** page 11

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Field Hockey controls Centennial

Strong Defense and timely scoring helps Mules stay undefeated in conference play

By Alex Blum
Contributing Writer

After starting the season with a disappointing record of 0-4, the Muhlenberg field hockey team has hit their stride. Winners of their previous three games, all of which were Centennial Conference contests, the women now find themselves 3-0 in conference play, which lands them in a tie with Johns Hopkins for second in the conference, only behind the 4-0 Ursinus Bears.

Coming off a shutout victory against the undefeated Franklin & Marshall Diplomats, 1-0, the squad came into their second of three straight conference games on Sept. 19 against the Haverford Fords. The Fords entered Scotty Wood Stadium boasting a 4-1 record. Muhlenberg was able to take command early and ride it until the end.

With 24 minutes gone in the first half Courtney Allen '20 took a penalty corner finding Morgan Tietz '21 who gained control and put one in the back of the goal to give the Mules a 1-0 lead. Tietz's goal would prove to be the lone score as the team held Haverford to get the win and improve their record to 2-4.

> **We may not have been showing it before, but it's been a collective effort and we're getting serious.**

After dropping their first four games, Jordan Segrave '20, the Mules goalkeeper who has already won one 2018 defensive player of the week award, praised her team as they flipped the script in preparation for conference play, the only games which have bearing on whether or not a team in the Centennial makes the playoffs.

"The first four games were non-conference and we weren't clicking. Now, the team is starting to pick it up and we're working harder. We may not have been showing it before, but it's been a collective effort and we're getting serious," Segrave said.

With a few days rest, the Mules traveled to Dickinson College who came into the matchup with the Mules at a 2-5 clip overall. In the Centennial Conference thriller the Mules wasted

see **Field Hockey** page 11

Back to business

Mules Volleyball returns from mid-season trip hoping to spark Conference play-winning streak

By Matt Riebesell
Managing Editor

On Sunday night the Muhlenberg volleyball team landed and taxied to their gate at Philadelphia International Airport. Trekking their luggage through the terminal the squad was about to return to campus after a trip which had been the first of its kind for many of the athletes on the team.

"The trip to Minnesota was a great experience," said Laura Boll '20, who has established herself at the service line and at the net this season. During the Mules' time in Minnesota the team played matches in St. Paul against St. Thomas College and in Arden Hills against St. Olaf College and Bethel University. "The competition was tough, with us only winning one of our games but the team is not disappointed in how we played."

The trip had a bit more meaning for one of the Mules. Maggie Enestvedt '20 was able to experience a homecoming, as she is the lone Mules volleyball player from Minnesota. The match against St. Thomas, in twin city St. Paul, was in her hometown. "It was really fun to go back to my home state to play and to show my teammates around," said Enestvedt, who is a dominant outside hitter for the 2018 squad but doubled as team tour guide while the program spent

see **Volleyball** page 11

Coming up this week in SPORTS

Saturday, Oct. 6

Field Hockey	Volleyball	Football	Women's Soccer
Muhlenberg vs Johns Hopkins	Muhlenberg vs Johns Hopkins	Muhlenberg vs Ursinus	Muhlenberg vs Johns Hopkins
Saturday, Oct. 6 @ 12:00 pm	Saturday, Oct. 6 @ 1:00 pm	Saturday, Oct. 6 @ 1:00 pm	Saturday, Oct. 6 @ 1:00 pm
Scotty Wood Stadium	Memorial Hall	Collegeville, PA	Varsity Field

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Read inside:

Men's Soccer needs just one final push

read more on 11

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NEWS

On Saturday, Oct. 27, Muhlenberg will host the annual Bridging the Gap Student Leadership Conference from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Seegers Union.

read more on 3

ARTS & CULTURE

Ben Lerner, author of "Leaving the Atocha Station" and "10:04," visited Muhlenberg as part of the Living Writers program and changed a few worldviews along the way.

read more on 7

OP/ED

Bill Bamser sat down with former Op/Ed section editor Will Wamser about life after The Weekly, with all its love and all its potential hardships.

read more on 8

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

SPORTS

Field Hockey improves their conference record, making their play-off odds almost certain. Two of their three remaining contests are against teams in the lower half of the league.

read more on 10

Riding towards a more sustainable future

Photo Courtesy of Zagster

Zagster bikes like the ones above will be available on campus beginning this Friday, Oct. 19.

By Sydney Coplin
News Editor

Beginning this week, members of the Muhlenberg community will have access to a brand new bike rental program in partnership with a company called Zagster.

The bike share station, which will be located between Trexler Library and the Center for the Arts, will officially be available this Friday, Oct. 19. There will also be a special kickoff event the following week, on Friday, Oct. 26 at 2 p.m. Kalyna Procyk, sustainability coordinator and professor of political science and sustainability studies, encourages students to attend the kickoff event, as there will be free cupcakes and discounts available for bike rentals for those with the Zagster App.

"The whole goal of this is to give students, staff and faculty the opportunity to bike on campus, [in addition to] taking a trip downtown, doing some shopping, going to your internship, going to a religious service..." explains Procyk. "This is something you can do right now to minimize your footprint."

There will be one station to start, with six available bikes, although the station can hold up to 10. Depending on demand, more bikes and hopefully more stations can be added in the future, says Procyk.

"One of the largest transportation challenges facing higher education campuses is parking, not only for staff but also for students who need to bring their own cars and bicycles in order to get from A-B," says Karl Alexander, market manager at Zagster. "With Zagster Bike Sharing, we have an opportunity to help Muhlenberg College reduce demand for personal vehicle and bicycle storage while providing a fun, convenient and environmentally friendly form of transit."

According to Zagster's company website, they are currently involved in over 200 programs across 35 states, including many colleges and universities. They pride themselves in bikes with "practical design, comfortable ride and easy handling," according to their press releases.

Zagster first came to the Lehigh Valley in 2015, when they opened up a bike share station at Lehigh University, according to an article from The Morning Call.

"There were other companies that were looked into, but this one seemed to be a really good fit for Muhlenberg right now," explains Procyk. "They were very flexible about where we could put the bikes, possible expansion plans, they have bike share locations with a lot of different colleges and universities and they were willing to offer flexibility with pricing."

In order to get started with the rental process, the Zagster app must be downloaded, which is free on the iOS and Android App stores.

There are two main payment options: the first is an annual membership with a student discount fee of $15 for those with a muhlenberg.edu email account. The annual plan includes a free two hours for each ride, with $1 for every additional 30 minutes.

The other payment option is just an hourly plan for $1 for every 30 minutes.

"The built-in lock on every Zagster bike gives users the freedom to ride as long as they want, wherever they want. This hybrid model, which blends the ability to lock anywhere for mid-trip stops with fixed station locations for beginning and ending rides, allows users to plan their trips around their destinations — and not around station locations," also notes Zagster in their press releases.

"I really hope it is highly utilized because it's a great opportunity to do something individual to do something sustainable, and also to be fit, healthy and also to reach out to the community and go see beautiful Al-

SEE **ZAGSTER** PAGE 4

SGA moves general elections to Spring

By Chloe Gravereaux
Editor-in-Chief

On Oct. 10, the Student Government Association (SGA) voted 9-3 to change their election cycle from November to April. Students will now choose in the spring semester the president and 22 candidates to represent them for the following academic year.

After two weeks of heated discussion between sitting and former representatives, 12 of the 18 voting members currently on SGA attended the Oct. 10 general assembly on the third floor of Haas. Surpassing the approval of two thirds of the attendees by one vote, the motion passed. As a result, sitting members' terms will extend until this spring's election.

Karlee Makely '19, President of SGA, believes this is a step in the right direction, noting that it will encourage seniors to run for the entirety of their final year instead of having to resign in the middle of their term, and give members the summer to plan for their upcoming year.

"We're hoping that we'll get more competitive elections and we'll stop having so many special elections," said Makely. Special elections are held when SGA members elect new representatives from a pool of applicants to fill vacancies.

"We found that almost every year we are replacing around half of our members in early September upon the beginning of the academic year. Whether this is attributed to members graduating, deciding to go abroad after being elected or just losing interest in between years this problem must be addressed," stated SGA in an e-mail to the student body and a Facebook post explaining the vote.

Discussion of changing the election cycle has been in the works since as early as last school year, according to both Maekly and Steve Dutton, faculty advisor for SGA. The change

SEE **ELECTIONS** PAGE 4

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Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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The Muhlenberg Weekly strives for accuracy in reporting and writing, but we acknowledge that mistakes happen. Readers are invited to submit corrections about errors in articles, and they should be submitted to weeklyeditor@gmail.com. Corrections are also brought to our staff's attention by our own editors and writers. Our staff will review the suggested correction, consult with the author of the article, and issue the appropriate correction. Online corrections are located at the bottom of the article. Print corrections are located within the paper, on the page indicated in the online edition. However, The Weekly does not grant take-down requests for articles.

ADVERTISING POLICY

We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

Monday, October 1
Sick Student - 12:45 a.m.
In Walz Hall there was a report of sick student. EMS responded and the student was transported to the hospital.

Tuesday, October 2
Drug Violation - 10:10 p.m.
In Prosser Hall there was a report of possession of marijuana. The individuals were identified and spoken to with no further incident.

Wednesday, October 3
Hit & Run - 7:00 a.m.
In the Back Drive there was a report of a hit and run to vehicle causing paint transfer. Individuals were identified and spoken to with no further incident.

Thursday, October 4
Found Property - 8:51 a.m.
In Seegers Union there was a report of a found wallet. The owner claimed the item.

Disabled Vehicle - 8:45 p.m.
In the sorority parking lot, there was a report to jump start vehicle. Campus Safety successfully started vehicle.

Friday, October 5
No reports available.

Saturday, October 6
Vandalism - 12:01 a.m.
In faculty housing there was report of damage found to exterior lights. No suspects at this time.

Sunday, October 7
Fire Alarm - 12:37 p.m.
On Albright Street, there was a report of fire alarm from burnt food, system silenced and reset.

Monday, October 8
Vehicle Lockout - 9:33 a.m.
In faculty/staff lot there was a report of keys locked in vehicle. Campus Safety successfully retrieved the keys.

Theft - 10:32 a.m.
In Seegers Union, report of a stolen sweatshirt. Suspect identified and spoken to, the sweatshirt was returned to owner.

Tuesday, October 9
Vandalism - 8:51 p.m.
In Walz Hall there was a report of a fire extinguisher found discharged. Individuals were identified and spoken to. The investigation will continue.

Wednesday, October 10
Welfare Check - 3:40 p.m.
In Prosser Hall there was a report to locate a student. Contact was made and the student spoken to. No further incident.

Friday, October 12
Found property - 1:40 a.m.
In Ettinger Hall there was a report of a found laptop. The item was placed in lost and found locker.

Saturday, October 13
Property Damage - 1:15 a.m.
In Prosser Hall there was a report of damage to a pole and glass laying in area. The investigation will continue.

Alcohol Violation - 2:43 a.m.
On North 22nd Street there was a report of an alcohol violation. Allentown EMS responded and transported the individual to the hospital. No further incident.

Sunday, October 14
Fire Alarm - 3:51 p.m.
On Gordon Street there was report of fire alarm from cooking. The system was silenced and reset.

Fire Alarm - 10:18 p.m.
On Leh Street there was a report of fire alarm from steam from shower. The system silenced and reset

GLOBAL CHEF SHARES THE
FLAVORS OF POLAND

PRESENTED BY CHEF ZYGMUNT SKRZYPIEC

"I think a chef is not only a great craftsman, but also an artist who can create something beautiful and original," says Chef Zygmunt Skrzypiec. After graduating from gastronomy school, he was hired for the world-renowned, four-story Restauracja Wierzynek in Old Town Krakow, which has served monarchs and world leaders since medieval times.

OCTOBER 29TH & 30TH IN THE WOOD DINING COMMONS

Dave Davies lecture addresses changing relationship of media and politics

By Laura Schwarz
Contributing Writer

On Tuesday, Oct. 9, over 60 students, professors, alumni and community members filled Moyer Hall's Millers Forum to listen to a lecture titled "State and Local Political Coverage in Pennsylvania: Perspectives on a Changing Media Landscape from WHYY's Dave Davies" sponsored by The Muhlenberg College Political Science Department. As a part of the lecture series leading up to the midterm elections, Davies' lecture reflected on the current political landscape, the state of journalism today and his own career in political reporting.

"When you are [reporting] in government you want to find people who are abusing their offices ..."

Raised in Texas, Davies is senior reporter for WHYY, a public radio station serving the Delaware Valley, as well as a contributor and fill-in host for the show Fresh Air with Terry Gross. According to his WHYY profile, before working with the station, Davies spent 19 years as a reporter and columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News and prior to that, he was city hall bureau chief for KYW News Radio and city hall correspondent for WHYY.

With political science professor Christopher Borick moderating, Davies spoke to the changes he has noticed after the 2016 elections, particularly in respect to the media.

"It is extremely disturbing to be in an environment where large parts of the population believe that news organizations like the New York Times and the Washington Post and the Philadelphia Inquirer and public radio make stuff up," said Davies.

"It is one of the byproducts of this bitter partisanship which has been building for years and years where people will do anything for partisanship, including poison peoples trust of news organizations that largely are certainly imperfect, which try to get it right, and which can be sued if they get it wrong," he added.

He also spoke about the decline of thorough investigative reporting in the era of the internet and its effects on the American public and democracy.

"TV stations have also lost their news departments," said Davies, "the content tends to be really driven by ratings. It tends to be shootings, stabbings or fires or human interest stuff that may or may not be very consequential, and I think one result of that is to decrease voter turnout."

Davies addressed the current issue facing American media concerning anonymous sources. In the wake of the controversial, anonymous New York Times article titled "I Am Part of the Resistance Inside the Trump Administration," the credibility of anonymous sources on a larger scale have come into question.

"I think in political reporting in particular, you have to have conversations where people can get the ability to speak candidly about things that they can't speak publicly about," said Davies. "There have been times I have called people up and said, 'I would love this off the records I don't want you to tell me what you would say for public consumption' and that's a case when I am not willing to quote them as an anonymous source trashing somebody. I want them to inform me. I want to understand what's going on about a particular political candidate."

Davies was critical, however, of the extensive use of these sources in newspapers recently, and argued that the Washington D.C. press in particular is guilty of their overuse.

"I feel like when the New York Times does it and the Washington Post does it, reporters everywhere feel empowered to do it, in fact kind of have to do it ... It creates the suspicion about what we do," said Davies.

Davies also spoke about the 'watchdog role' taken up by the media and how it feeds into cynicism and distrust of government within the American public.

"When you are [reporting] in government you want to find people who are abusing their offices, wasting their taxes doing political work on the taxpayer's dime," says Davies.

"I do worry sometimes that the cumulative impact of stories like that is that people come to believe that everybody that works for the government is lazy and that's just not true. Over the years, I have just found so many people that are smart dedicated public servants," he added.

However, Davies explained that good public servants do not make for interesting news.

"That's a little bit of a concern that, [the media] have created an unrealistic thought that everybody on the payroll is a jerk."

Davies shared some of his own insight and expectations for the upcoming Midterm elections. A key point of discussion was the so called 'blue wave' and the recent, unprecedented success of democratic candidates in Pennsylvania elections. Davies credits some of these changes to the recent redrawing of Pennsylvania's Congressional map in 2018 which took effect this year and left Democrats in better shape than with the heavily gerrymandered districts before.

"The truly seismic change that we have had here, is that we redrew all the congressional boundaries in January. It was just astonishing to see," said Davies.

He also spoke about the effects of national organizations stepping in to influence competitive elections and their use of dubious campaign tactics.

"When there is a competitive congressional race ... national organizations will come in and just will say anything."

"When there is a competitive congressional race ... national organizations will come in and just will say anything," said Davies, mentioning efforts by the National Republican Congressional Committee to upend Democratic candidate Scott Wallace's campaign for a seat in Pennsylvania's First Congressional District through the use of political advertisements.

Both Professor Borick and Davies made note that currently, there are zero women in Pennsylvania's congressional delegation, but that there are a number of women on ballots for the midterms.

Finally, Davies spoke about his work for the talk radio show, Fresh Air with Terry Gross, the rigorous preparation involved and his favorite interviewee so far: Jerry Seinfeld.

Dave Davies' lecture was both enlightening and timely, addressing many of the concerns affecting the current role of media in America, the upcoming midterm elections and the state of journalism under the current presidential administration.

Bridging the gap:

Annual student leadership conference to take place on campus next weekend

By Sophia Richter
Contributing Writer

On Saturday, Oct. 27, Muhlenberg will be hosting the Bridging the Gap Student Leadership Conference from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Seegers.

This annual event is sponsored by the Lehigh Valley Association of Independent Colleges (LVAIC) Coalition of Diversity Administrators, specifically, those from Muhlenberg, Cedar Crest, Lehigh, Lafayette and Moravian. It travels around the Lehigh Valley; last year, it was hosted at Cedar Crest, and next year it will likely be held at Lehigh University. This year, our own Director of Multicultural Life Robin Riley-Casey is serving as the chair of the conference.

The conference initially began with Lehigh and Lafayette as a way to combat the rivalry between the two schools, specifically for students of color.

"And then they thought, what about all the other institutions who may never get a chance to meet?" says Riley-Casey. "[It] could be expanded to all the Lehigh Valley schools. The way it starts to begin to expand is to reach out to the various multicultural life directors around the Lehigh Valley and say 'what kinds of things do your students need, that we can help to support an engagement through networking opportunities?'"

They have discovered that the best way to support students from marginalized communities is to offer the opportunity to supplement what one might have at one's own institution, by taking advantage of what other institutions have to offer. The conference then continued to evolve to become a space for the exchange of ideas.

"[It] really began to develop some intellectual kinds of offerings that our students were engaging in through their research experiences," says Riley-Casey.

This year's theme is "This is Equity: Belonging, Unpacking and Claiming." According to the website, the theme is meant to explore ways that students can engage in self advocacy, in order to understand and challenge the dominant systems of oppression. Consequently, all workshops and presentations are built around the overall theme, in order to explore "intersectionality and identity development." While it is a student conference, Riley-Casey says that staff and faculty are also welcome to present and this year there are a total of 10 different workshops and presentations. In past years, attendance has included approximately 150-200 students from across the LVAIC consortium, so Muhlenberg can likely expect to see this amount in attendance this month.

Muhlenberg also has three students presenting at the conference, including Steven Smith '19, and Nelly Montina '19, advised by Professor John Lassiter, who conducted research on Predominantly White Institution (PWI) as an extension of the criminal justice system: Policing Black men's bodies through invisibility and hypervisibility. According to Riley-Casey, Smith and Montina also presented this research at a conference in Boston. The third Muhlenberg student presenting research is Bridget Cantor '20, advised by Professor Amelia Moreno, who studied abroad in Panama and is presenting her research, entitled "From Heritage Speaker to Heritage Language Learner."

The keynote presenter is Tyrone Russell, who was the previous multicultural director at Lehigh and now owns and operates his own consulting firm, Faces International. Faces specializes in networking and professional development around equity.

"[They are] very talented young men," says Riley-Casey of Russell and his team, "who seek to uplift young people to understand their value unto the world."

The conference provides the opportunity for students and faculty to be in dialogue about topics of race and marginalization.

"They get to share with their peers some of their concerns and issues about what it means to be part of a marginalized community," says Riley-Casey, "and that includes students who are also part of majority populations. So our white students who are grappling with issues of what it means to be an ally, what it means to think about whiteness, what it means to think about race from that perspective. And it really starts, in institutions of higher learning, with students. If we really want to know the way students are thinking about it, we have to hear their voices."

Hurricane Maria will not affect Puerto Rico MILA

Course will proceed as scheduled, per faculty

By Melissa Rudberg
Contributing Writer

On Friday, Sept. 28, Dr. Mirna Trauger and Dr. Ranajoy Ray-Chaudhuri held the first information session for the new Puerto Rico Muhlenberg Integrated Learning Abroad (MILA). The course is titled "The Cultural Identity and Economy of Puerto Rico" and will take place in the Spring of 2019.

This will be the first time that the MILA program has offered a trip to Puerto Rico, even in light of Hurricane Maria, which devastated the island last September 2017.

Hurricane Maria was a category four hurricane that struck the island, resulting in a country wide power outage, significant damage to infrastructure and a staggering death toll of 2,975 people (according to BBC).

Even though Maria hit a little over a year ago, the island is still feeling the detrimental environmental and economic effects of the storm.

"We were very concerned after the hurricane hit because I had gone right before and scouted the university… and then the hurricane hit and we realized what a disastrous situation it was," said Trauger, who will be teaching the language, culture and history section of the program.

"About 300,000 people have left the island since Hurricane Maria," added Trauger.

Fortunately, the new MILA is still a go; however, the effects of Hurricane Maria will definitely play a unique role in the new MILA, affecting both the economics and language courses.

"As a result of the Hurricane, many people have left the island, so there are significant Puerto Rican communities especially in New York and Florida," said Ray-Chaudhuri, who will be teaching the economics portion of the MILA. "So we will definitely talk about how that has changed the politics and economics of both Puerto Rico and the United States."

This brand new MILA will provide students with the opportunity to not only learn about the history, language, culture and economics of Puerto Rico, but will also shed light on the extra measures a small Latin American country has to undergo in order to recover from a category four hurricane.

"This will be interesting and educational in itself with what it looks like after a hurricane even a year later," said Trauger.

Ray-Chaudhuri has been studying and researching Puerto Rico while organizing this MILA and is planning to travel to the country this December.

"This was a perfect opportunity to learn more about a part of the United States that I didn't know much about and to freshen up on my Spanish… so a lot of little things just fell into place," said Ray-Chaudhuri.

This MILA is also unique because Puerto Rico has a special relationship with the United States, due to the fact that it is a U.S. territory.

"It is important to recognize that Puerto Rico has an identity of its own. Yes, it is an extension of the United States, but it is not. It has a beautiful and complex identity and I am excited to have our students learn more about it," said Trauger.

MILAs are not only a trip to a foreign country, but a significant learning experience as well.

"I think students are going to develop a new appreciation for Puerto Rico and a new complete knowledge about the history, culture, the geography and environmental issues… this will be a multi-faceted learning experience," said Trauger.

Additionally, the city of Allentown has a significant Puerto Rican community.

"The number one thing we will bring back is awareness, knowledge, and education… we will be able to have that connection with the Puerto Rican community here in Allentown, because students can then have something to at least start the conversation with," said Trauger.

Spanish Language
AUSTRALIA New Zealand & Fiji
EUROPE
ASIA
AFRICA
SANTIAGO DE CHILE
Photo Courtesy of Amico Studios

Puerto Rico was only one of many destinations offered at the 2018 Study Abroad Fair.

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from **Elections** page 1

was passed by the SGA Standards board and approved by Dean of Students Allison Gulati, in addition to being discussed at two general assemblies held on Oct. 3 and Sept. 26.

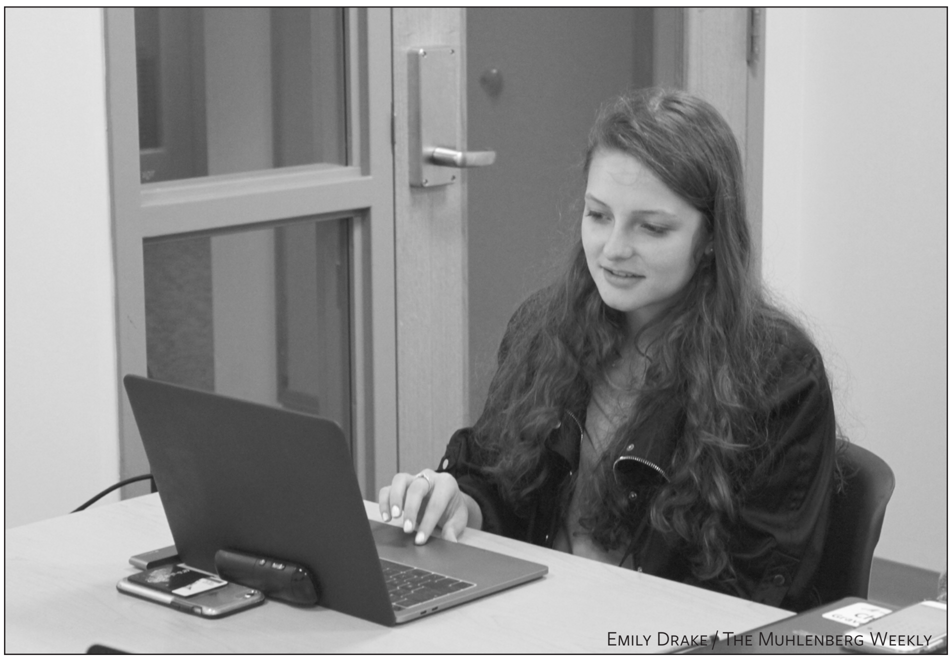
"Every time we would get momentum of making some real positive changes to the campus, we would find ourselves having to replace half of the general body," said Dutton. "And before we would need to get back into those issues we would have to orient them to student government, our policies, our procedures, and without context some of these issues that we'd been talking about to move forward."

The past two fall semesters SGA had to replace 11 of their 22 members and began this semester with eight vacancies, four of which remain open.

The SGA rules require any change to its bylaws to be announced to students two weeks before a vote. Because the November 2018 election was approaching and campaigning would soon begin, the rule was suspended. Instead, the students were notified only five days before the vote, three of which were over fall break.

"In this sense it was a timing issue. I would have asked everyone to vote on this weeks ago," said Makely.

But after sending an e-mail and posting on Facebook, the only pushback Makely has directly received came from a former SGA representative, who argued the new election dates were short-changing the freshmen's voice.


Emily Drake / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Treasurer Gaby Baum '20 discusses details during a meeting in the Student Life Suite.

"This change I really don't believe will negatively impact first year's voice," stated Dutton. "It will impact their vote but not their voice. Their voice should be as strong as ever."

Makely suggested that freshmen can serve on committees as a student voice without holding a seat on SGA, or they could run in a special election in the beginning of the year. There are currently three freshmen on SGA already.

Makely is looking for more students to get involved.

"We don't really get people coming in with dialogue, and I think that's what we were trying to do in changing [the election cycle]." said Makely. "We're trying to get people more engaged, and that's by keeping members first."

In addition to changing its election cycle, SGA has created a new constituency program, where one representative contacts multiple clubs and organizations and passes on student concerns, and to get members more connected to the community. Additionally, Treasurer Gaby Baum '21 worked with Dutton to digitize the paper warrant system.

SGA will be holding a special election on Halloween to fill its remaining vacancies.

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from **Zagster** page 1

lentown, go experience our parks," notes Procyk. "I'm very hopeful that this will be highly used."

Even if a bike is rented from the Muhlenberg station, it can be dropped off anywhere, including stations in downtown Allentown.

"College and university campuses are walkable and bikeable, and most often the only reason a student has a car is to travel off-campus. By partnering with organizations in the Allentown community, Zagster will be working over the next year to make biking a reliable and convenient form of transportation for many destinations in the area," says Alexander.

"This is something you can do right now to minimize your carbon footprint."

Procyk also credits The Muhlenberg Environmental Action Team, students in sustainability studies classes, President Williams, Student Government, Dean Gulati, the Office of Campus Engagement, the Treasurer's Office and the Sustainability Committee, but also many other departments, for their support.

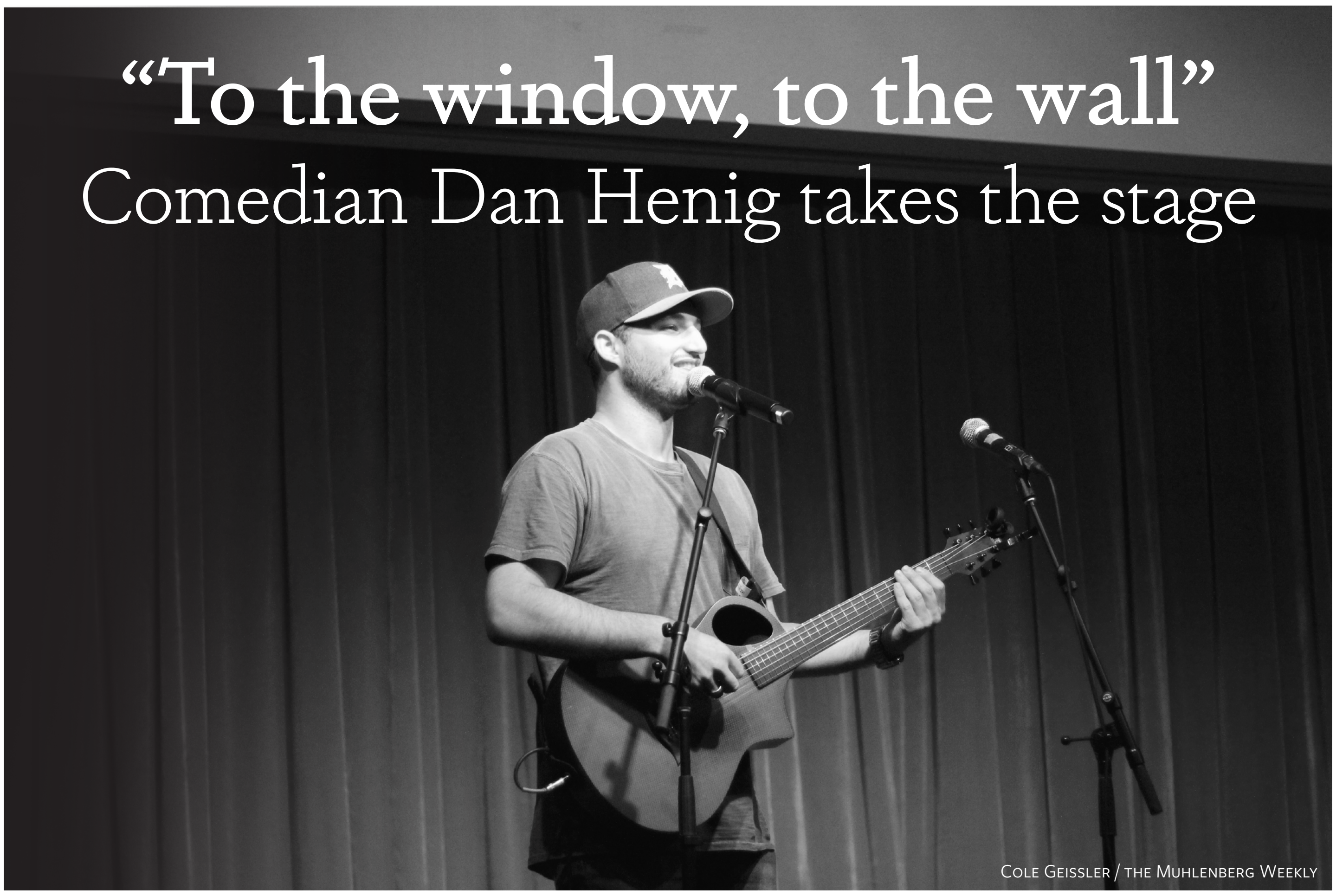
"If you can just get into using a different way of commuting, including bike riding, that could really transform things," she adds.

“Art has to offer something other than stylized despair.”

– Ben Lerner

“To the window, to the wall”

Comedian Dan Henig takes the stage



Cole Geissler / the Muhlenberg Weekly

With guitar in hand, Dan Henig brings a new, irreverent approach to entertainment.

By Ethan Forrer
Staff Writer

Have you ever stopped for a second and thought about the actual lyrics to some of the popular songs today: like “Get Low” by Lil Jon and the East Side Boyz, and even “My Neck, My Back (Lick It)” by Khia? If you don’t know of these songs already, make sure your headphones are definitely plugged in before you try listening to them. But what if you took it a step further? Enter Dan Henig, the singer and songwriter who initially gained popularity by singing some of the most distorted and raunchy songs of all time, performing crisp and pure acoustic covers of these songs so that every uncensored syllable could be fully heard and understood in unsuspecting places. It is truly an experience unlike anything else you will ever have listened to: a young, Jewish man from Michigan quoting some of the raciest stuff in popular media right now.

Henig is so much more than just a guitar-playing metaphor for the current messages behind popular songs, which was made clear through the concert of sorts that he held for the general student body on Oct. 12. The concert was more of a causal stand-up show in a small club setting. One of the highlights of the night that really demonstrates the atmosphere of the event was the way Henig conversed with different members of the audience in between songs, asking for suggestions on the next song. His willingness to play songs for the audience that he hadn’t prepared for or even released yet was remarkable—even when his dad paid him an untimely call while in between songs, the audience was able to convince him to answer it. He put the call on speaker for everyone to listen to while he was still on stage.

Before each song, Henig would call out different members of the audience and talk to them for a bit before asking them what kind of song they would like to hear first. Funnily enough, the person he ended up talking with and getting to know most was in fact myself. By the end of the night, Henig and I had had a couple conversations about how our days were going, what we wanted to do with our lives in the future and what it means to be Jewish. I even had my name dropped into his cover of “Get Low” in a part that for the sake of allowing this article to be published I cannot explicitly explain (if you know the song, it was used in the line right after “to the window, to the wall” in the chorus).

“One of the most impressive parts ... came in when he started to push the limits of what can be played on an acoustic guitar.”

The best parts of the night were the occasions when Henig performed his original songs, which showcased just how great of a range of styles he could get out of an acoustic guitar, a microphone and a looping program he controlled with his feet. Hitting many different genres of music, he started with an original Jewish country song called “Bar Mitzvah Missing You,” with the stand out line “you’re hotter than Matza-ball soup.” Changing gears, he also sang a slow, sad love song about military relationships and the bravery it takes to have a significant other on active duty. Another song involved a rapping section in a cappella.

One of the most impressive parts of Henig’s repertoire came in when he started to push the limits of what can be played on an acoustic guitar. For a handful of songs, he would set aside a time to record himself playing or beatboxing into the mic for a stanza or two and then setting that recording on a loop to play in the background while he continued on with the song. This meant that every time through the chorus and the subsequent verse there would be more going on in the song, to the point where he could have started the song off with just his voice and guitar and ended with what sounded like a full band backing him up. This was used best during one of his original songs towards the end that he played even though he hadn’t released the song yet. The song “F*** That” was an invigorating anthem of a song that involved Henig even slapping his guitar to make a solid drum beat to backup the higher vocals and rock chords played on his guitar.

Henig’s music is available online in any of the usual places you can find music, although some of the songs he performed in this event, in my opinion some of the best ones, are not fully released yet and have to be heard in person when you experience his stand-up style consort for yourself.

Two halves of life:

Presidential Lecturer offers food for the soul

By Chloe Gravereaux
Editor-in-Chief

Presidential lecturer Reverend Phillip Jackson shared his take on the two halves of life with attendees in Miller Forum, Moyer Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Oct. 11.

Jackson, the vicar of Trinity Church Wall Street in Manhattan and an Episcopalian of 25 years walked back and forth on stage, showing comfort at the podium. Jackson renamed the talk he was going to give The Two Halves of Life, in which he described just that. According to Jackson, the first half is an upward swing in which the ego asks, “Who do I want to be?” while the soul sits quiet in the corner. At the age of 40-60, something happens - a failure, a loss or suffering - the death of a loved one, a divorce, loss of a job. This begins what Jackson calls the second stage of life.

After describing this, Jackson then turned to the audience.

“Any of that happen to anybody here?” he asked.

Faculty, staff, and administrators in the audience raised their hands; students didn’t.

“This is an almost universal experience ... that no one talks about,” said Jackson. “We don’t talk about it, and we don’t tell our young people that this is part of what happens in life.”

According to Jackson, successfully handling the second half of life creates wisdom, which he said is undervalued in American culture. Instead, people try to circle back to the first stage of life.

After his lecture, Jackson took questions from the audience. Attendees asked what the soul looked like, what is needed to nourish it and how the two halves of life applied to the Baby Boomer generation. Jackson suggested to feed your soul with cooking, conversations, literature and a good thought-provoking movie.

Towards the end, one student asked for Jackson’s advice to students in the first half of life.

His advice: to build relationships, enjoy these four years and read while you can.

“When you get out of school and graduate school, it gets harder and harder to find the discipline to read good things. So [your professors] are putting in front of you really good stuff,” said Jackson. “Read it, read it, read it.”

A spook-tacular storybook parade

Allentown Halloween Parade celebrates its 113th anniversary

By Abigail Sherman
Staff Writer

“It’s 2:10, they should be starting,” an impatient eight-year-old said while waiting for the annual Allentown Halloween Parade to start. While the parade did begin a little late, many locals to the Lehigh Valley had already gathered around the parade route to watch various community organizations and business participate in the fun.

Special events coordinator for the city of Allentown and planner of the Halloween Parade Christy Alvord gave some background information about the parade. “The Allentown Halloween Parade first began in 1905,” Alvord said. “It is believed to be one of the oldest Halloween Parades in the country. I began coordinating the parade in 2012. I can’t speak to the parade before then, but we have seen a steady increase in number of participants from year to year.”

Alvord also gave some insight as to how this year’s theme was chosen. “We asked some of our community partners and regular participants for feedback on possible theme ideas, and this year’s theme, ‘Storybook Favorites,’ was one of them. We definitely saw a terrific response from the participating groups in embracing and adhering to the theme this year, from Cat in the Hat to Winnie the Pooh to Sneetches to My Little Ponies.”

Most importantly, Alvord emphasized the importance of how this parade impacts the Allentown community as a whole, saying, “I think the parade is a point of pride and celebration for Allentown. Many of the community groups who participate look forward to the theme and to being creative each year and figuring out how to best entertain their participants and the crowd and showcase their organization or business. It’s nice to see all the spectators come out and show pride in their city.”

Starting at the Allentown Fairgrounds, the parade was led by the Court of Honor and Allentown Police Officers. The entries to follow definitely showcased their pride in Allentown. Following shortly at the beginning of the parade were local Girl Scouts Melany, Oriana, Kara, Lydia and Sofia, all of whom seemed very excited to be a part of the parade. For their first time participating in the Halloween parade, Melany said, “We’re going to be handing out pencils and giving them to kids.”

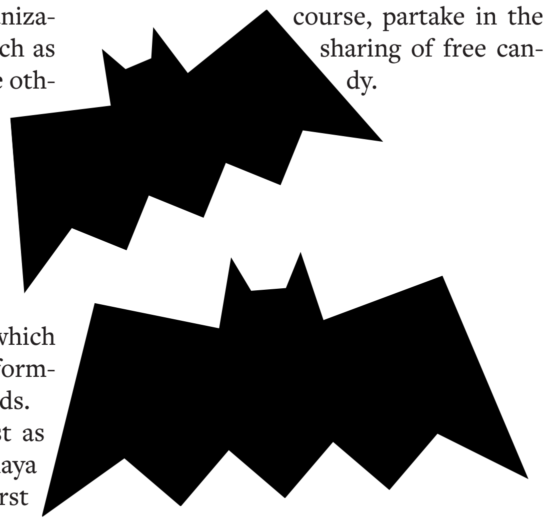
Raquel Lopez, one of the group’s leaders said, “We’re going to be promoting their recycling, because they work and recycle for Allentown.”

The Girl Scouts did a good job in the parade, especially considering they received second place for the ‘marchers’ category of the parade competition.

Along with the Girl Scouts, various other marchers and floats were featured in the parade. Several marching bands from local schools and adult organizations played Halloween favorites such as “Thriller” and “Ghostbusters,” while other marchers got into the spirit with kooky costumes. The first place winners of the “marchers” category were the Boston Terriers and French Bulldogs of the LV, with their legion of dogs dressed up in crazy colorful outfits. In first place for the “floats” was Kory Ravenold Productions, which created a float that featured live performers dancing and singing for the crowds.

Spectators of the parade had just as much fun as those who marched. Anaya and Ean were at the parade for the first time, along with their mother, Tiffany Bryant. They all agreed that this was a great event for the whole community to be a part of; their only qualm was, “We wish we could see more goblins! We can’t wait to see the costumes. This is a really nice event.” Our interview was cut short at the sight of another float passing out candy.

Overall, the annual Allentown Halloween Parade was a great way for members of the community to get in the spirit of Halloween and, most importantly, of course, partake in the sharing of free candy.



Artist of the Week: Tongyao Su

By Arielle Moss
Staff Writer

“I have tried to do portraits, but they don’t have an influence on me. The human figure freaks me out,” said Tongyao Su ‘19.

A Studio Art and Psychology double major, Su began painting when she was in high school, but her talent makes it seem as if she had been painting her entire life.

Before Su began painting landscapes, she learned how to create Chinese traditional ink printing, which she still does. Last summer, Su had a printership with a master in China, where she learned how to do landscape painting and how to manipulate her ink.

Her favorite artist is Fan Kaun, who painted landscapes during the Song Dynasty (960–1279), which was a great cultural movement in China.

“Kaun’s powerful mountains look like middle-aged men. Once you look at the mountains you hear the details,” said Su. “His manipulation of tiny strokes make each of them stand out and have a lot of difference, which makes them stand out as a whole.”

Su incorporates techniques she learned from her homeland in China as well as from Muhlenberg, where she has her own art studio in Hillside. She studied abroad in France in the spring of 2018 and has traveled to Venice, where she also painted landscapes. Nature is Su’s greatest artistic inspiration, and it allows her to paint what she sees.

“Nature is spiritual. It is the greatest master and it is deep with wisdom,” Su said. “Trees are culture by itself and energy moves from inside and outside of them. They live longer than we do and have seen history that I can never witness. It’s really important to listen to what nature has to say.”

“Nature is spiritual. It is the greatest master and it is deep with wisdom.”

Her process for painting is to hop outside, find a beautiful place to sit for hours and create a work. She explains that while painting in nature, the light often changes. The movement of the clouds cast different colors on the entire landscape. If the light changes, the color looks dramatically different and she has to find a baseline for it, but at the same time, paradoxically, she tries not to let the changes influence her work.

Besides listening to what nature tells her to paint, Su paints the images that pop into her head. Some of her inspiration comes from her dreams. One of her paintings, entitled “Spirits,” came from an image she saw in a dream a few weeks ago: the eyes of a spirit under tree leaves. She decided to paint her own eyes, since she did not remember the way in which the eyes of the spirit looked from her dream.

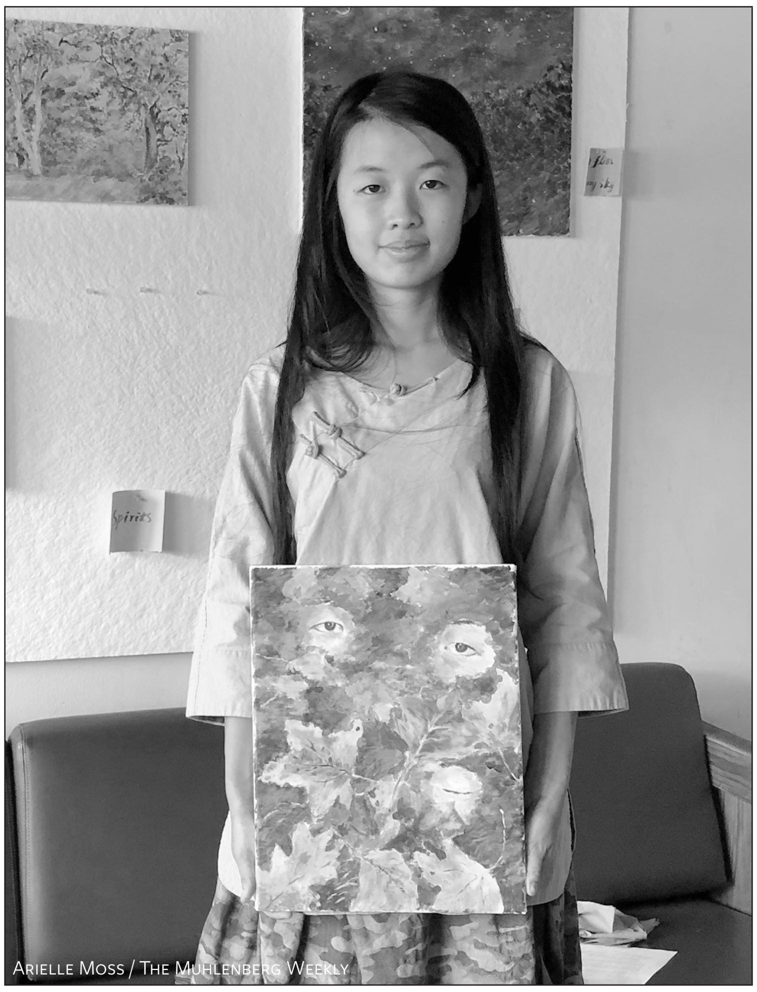
While Su draws inspiration from the images around her, she also focuses on a lot of differences in the style of Chinese art and art from the United States.

“The composition is really different and we don’t have a fixed horizon line or linear perspective, but we do have an atmospheric perspective and we do build up our ink based on that,” said Su. “So the ink becomes lighter and lighter as we move to the background.”

Su said that a white, spacious canvas is really important to her pieces and that it should never be completely filled in for landscapes.

“My master once said to me that if I just paint everything on the whole space, I am just killing the landscape, because I am not allowing it to breathe. Now I have to fill up the whole surface slowly,” said Su.

“He told me that we are ‘human doings’ rather than ‘human beings,’” she said, explaining the best advice she has reeived from her master at a zen temple. “Humans are so caught up in the doing that they are not being in the moment.”


Arielle Moss / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Tongyao Su ‘19 showcases her landscape painting “Spirits”.

Su is not yet sure what she wants to do after she graduates from Muhlenberg, but she plans on staying focused on the present moment and keeping her eyes open for the best opportunities.

Su wants to learn more about herself and has been trying to do so for years, but is still trying to find out who she really is.

“The self is a great puzzle to solve,” said Su. “I am getting pieces of it, but I am still trying to put them together.”

“Just a little different”: Ben Lerner visits campus

By Brooke Weber
Arts & Culture Editor

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Public Relations

Author Ben Lerner answers audience questions at a Living Writers event on Oct. 10.

The author is here. The author is a real person, a person who I almost slam into upon entering Miller Forum, where he’s standing in a group of English professors. Upon seeing the face I saw on photos in the back of two books, I brace myself and walk to my seat, eyes wide. All of us have read his work, and none of us quite know what to expect. Will the author of this room be “the author” of his novel, a narrator that leaves little room for his readers to breathe?

The author starts off his question and answer session with an apology. His book has been “inflicted upon” us Living Writers students, he says with a sheepish smile, and in just a few seconds, everything’s changed. This man is an author, yes, but he’s writing a different story, a self-aware, thought-provoking, deeply human tale of a guy who’s just trying to figure everything out. He now has his own name, one distinct from the shade of himself presented in his novel *10:04*: Ben Lerner, Fulbright Scholar, MacArthur Fellow, National Book Award Finalist.

> ***“What does it mean that a white man has to propagate this style in order to unpack it, and does this reproduction undermine that project?”***

This closed question and answer session, as well as a public reading and subsequent Q&A, were both a part of Lerner’s visitation to Muhlenberg as a featured guest of the Living Writers program, which also featured poet Ada Limon and playwright Marina Carr earlier this semester, on Oct. 10. Though many students were interested to hear from Lerner in person, some, like Blake Chernin ‘19, were initially skeptical after reading *10:04*, his second novel, published in 2014.

“I first consciously encountered Lerner in Living Writers (I came to realize that I had actually read a bit of his book *The Hatred of Poetry* in a class last fall, but Living Writers was the first time I engaged with him as a writer),” said Chernin. “To be honest, my initial impressions of his work were not great. I think a lot of *10:04* is bogged down by a sort of white-guy philosophical mysticism which haunts our literary and academic worlds … I had an idea that Lerner was attempting to take down this sense or style, but to me that begs some questions: What does it mean that a white man has to propagate this style in order to unpack it, and does this reproduction undermine that project? Is he genuinely seeking to unpack the style, anyway, or was I just hopefully projecting?″

I’ll admit I shared this skepticism: *10:04* is a novel that lives in between fiction and non-fiction, a novel in which the first-person narrator is named “Ben” and shares many factual traits with its creator, but is also distinctly not-Ben-Lerner in other, more personal facets of the character/narrator’s life. The narrator is claustrophobic: paragraphs digress into anxious extrapolations of possible future events, the embodied apocalypse of a heart condition blends with the worldwide apocalypse of climate change, time collapses and stretches and children created with a friend/almost-lover are thought and medically manipulated into maybe-existence.

It is impossible to tell in an isolated reading whether the novel is a memoir or a fantasy or an altogether new creation, and, as it turns out, this unsettling uncertainty is all part of Lerner’s own philosophy: during the Living Writers Q&A, he professed a love for manipulating genre in order to play with reader expectations. If you can convince yourself to perceive something as a certain genre, Lerner posits, you can change how you understand it – being told that a series of noises is music, for example, will change how you comprehend and categorize them. Novels, Lerner believes, can absorb other media within their pages; they “create opportunities for readers to encounter other kinds of art” all in one place.

Indeed, *10:04* certainly makes the most of this liminality by including photographs, poetry (both original and quotes), fiction and nonfiction, all blending together to create a novel best understood in the presence of the man who wrote it. Lerner is both like his narrator and totally unlike him; he constantly refers to the “Ben Lerner” of the novel as some third-person ‘he’, a distant relative vaguely related to the man himself but incapable of being confused with him. Some students, including Taylor Garrison ‘20, were comforted by this revelation.

“I found Lerner′s Q&A to be eye opening,” Garrison said. “He wasn′t like his narrator at all, save for the anxiety. I felt relieved. Lerner was so generous; he answered questions but clarified that it was only his perspective on the issue … Lerner is deeply interested in political philosophy and how our world is dominated by capitalism and commodities. My initial frustration with the cerebral nature of *10:04* shifted as I learned more about his way of thinking; *10:04* is really all about consciousness.”

This consciousness, this awareness and cognizance of how his narrator comes off and the way that works upon the reader, is what makes Lerner’s work so puzzling and ultimately spellbinding. Lerner understands that the societal workings the narrator so laments but does not work against in the novel – the workings that allow him to seal a lucrative book deal within its pages – are also working upon him in real time, and the human Lerner is unafraid to address these workings, is willing to unpack them and analyze how he and his work fit into the larger scheme of things. Lerner’s take on economies also struck student Frankie Parker ’20, who took note of his phrasing and applied it to her own lived experience.

“… [Lerner] described art as ‘a way of trying to imagine some value other than price.’ He definitely is very interested in how art becomes a commodity, and that’s something I′m interested in too. Over the summer people kept asking me to draw their pets for them … and it was a great opportunity for me to ‘get my art out there,’ and make some money, but I didn’t feel passionate about it at all, having to repeat the same type of drawing over and over again,” said Parker. “I definitely appreciate *10:04* more now that I′ve listened to Lerner speak in person[and] I′m definitely interested in reading his poetry and the book he is working on now.”

Lerner’s reading from this new book, *The Topeka School*, was for me the highlight of his appearance last week. Written in third person (unlike Lerner’s previous novels, *Leaving the Atocha Station* and *10:04*) and narrating the story of a teenage boy, again a version of Lerner, and his quest to find his girlfriend after she abandons him in the middle of a lake, the excerpt that Lerner read was like a breath of fresh air. Able to separate ourselves from the events happening in the story by virtue of the third-person retelling, we in the audience were captured by Lerner’s every word. When his protagonist realizes the dizzying fact that he has unintentionally broken into an unfamiliar home, gasps rang throughout Miller Forum. When the narrator zooms out, imagining identical homes with identical people performing identical tasks all at once, we the listeners floated above our seats, looking down on a lakeside town in Kansas. When the protagonist’s girlfriend describes slinking down in her seat at a family dinner, snaking out from under the table without her stepfather noticing, my friend and I found ourselves repeating the move in our own chairs. Lerner had successfully taken over our combined consciousness, and we loved every second of it.

For some Living Writers students, Lerner’s visit to Muhlenberg was a kind of lesson in withholding judgement. As Chernin said:

“Yeah, I did something close to a 180 on the guy. Shows what I know. He was very intelligent and even warm, I thought, as a speaker. I don′t think I′ll ever love *10:04*, but I do think I understand it better, and I feel more confident that my best suspicions about it were true. I am very genuinely looking forward to *The Topeka School*. It sounded really good. More embodied and less philosophical than *10:04* (no shade to philosophy, by the by, I just think that fiction is better able to live in the body than Lerner was letting it up till now). Again, shows what I know. I′m pretty glad to have been wrong.”

> ***“ I don’t think I’ll ever love 10:04, but I do think I understand it better, and I feel more confident that my best suspicions about it were true.”***

The next Living Writer, Danez Smith, comes to ‘Berg on Oct. 24. Don’t miss their reading and Q&A – you never know how it might just change your world.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY/OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

Half a degree to demise

"PLANET HAS ONLY UNTIL 2030 TO STEM CATASTROPHIC CLIMATE CHANGE, EXPERTS WARN" screamed an Oct. 8 headline on CNN.

According to the research in the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the planet is dangerously close to its threshold for apocalyptic upset foretold by the raising of world average temperatures by 1.5 degrees celsius.

Despite how miniscule one degree may seem, this is the average for the entire earth's temperature - from the deserts of Saudi Arabia to the North Pole. At a net change of 1.5 degrees, according to NASA, the change is still reversible. After 1.5 degrees, or even at two, the ability to recover vanishes - and the damage becomes permanent. Everywhere on earth, temperatures have risen by one degree already. Only half a degree to detriment. Only half a degree to demise.

The Earth's temperatures haven't changed this drastically in such a short time in the history of the world. Over the course of the ice age to modern day the world's average temperature has only varied about one or two degrees over millenia. To change that much in such short notice could cause the death of nearly 90 percent of coral reefs, wildfires, floods, food shortage or the change 'Berg felt in this sudden switch from swelter to sweater weather overnight.

While the world at large needs to change, Muhlenberg has worked to do its part. Certainly, groups on campus such as Environmental Action Team (EnAcT) and Sustainability Studies help make sure that Muhlenberg minimizes its footprint. EnAct is responsible for everything from the Just Tap it! Refillable water fountains around campus to the community garden, from the paper straws in the dining hall to the new bike system, from bringing the farmer's market to campus and making locally-grown fruits and vegetables accessible to students to holding the Watts your bergtricity? Competition each year. The campus has many options to make sure that its impact is felt as little as it can be, but not much can be said for the surrounding area or the rest of the world.

Although "going green" is often put on the individual, The Guardian reports that just 100 companies are responsible for 71 percent of the world's pollution. Global warming isn't just leaving your air conditioning on or leaving the water running - it is caused by something much larger that needs to be dealt with on a much larger scale, with political force.

The President of the United States removed our country from the Paris Agreement, saying it was unfair to the country. What's unfair is what we're doing to the planet.

To change this, get out and vote in the next few weeks. Go to the polls in November and choose a candidate who cares for environmental concerns. Call your representatives in your home state. Go out and protest.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

Interview with a Wamser

By: Bill Bamser
Contributing Writer

I am sure all of you have already heard the news about the former Op/Ed Section Editor, Will Wamser, and his unexpected early retirement. This news saddened and shocked a nation. This nation to be more exact. I had the honor to sit down with Will Wamser this week to talk with him about what he has been doing since leaving the Weekly, he requested we not talk about the Weekly and focus on him, but unbeknownst to Mr. Wamser my allegiance is to my readers, but you'll see just how later in this article. He told me to meet him at the top of a mountain in the middle of the ocean and when I emailed him asking for further clarification, I received a mailer daemon message informing me the email account I had been in correspondence with had been disabled for 837 years. Seeing as a time for the meeting was never set, I began roaming from mountain to mountain in hopes of finding Mr. Wamser, but I ended up finding myself. So here we are, the interview has been lost, but I have been found. And as I sit at my standing desk I must wonder what is a person and how can we help one another as bes- Hold on, do mine ears deceive? There is a wrapping at my chamber door. Please excuse my dear Aunt Sally while I answer my door. ... Sorry about the wait, that was actually Mr. Wamser. After my tumultuous journey, he found me and we got that interview. I asked Mr. Wamser what he has been doing with his free time, he told me he was "finding his truth," "living his truth," "discovering his truth," "learning his truth" and "living his truth." When prompted to expand on these points he merely took out his wallet and showed me a picture of himself, informing me that it was his "g-friend" who took the picture, Jemma Andle, and he owes all his truth to her. He told me that she was a hot shot lawyer who decided to slum it with a country bumpkin like him, and I don't know, I guess something just stuck. It's not often that love fits a physical form, but tonight, I watched love slither from Mr. Wamser's eyeballs and wrap itself around the photo Jemma had taken. It was as beautiful as it was sickening. He then proceed to tell me about his band, which was unprompted. Apparently, him and "his boy-oy-oy-os" are a "new wayve eco post pop rock duo with a hunk of folk and 6 members." They are called The Walking Dogg and I have had no luck finding their music available anywhere. Despite this, Mr. Wamser seems optimistic, citing examples like Big Wayne and The Beachtie Boys, saying that they may not be well known but their influence can be seen in The Beastie Boys, Little Wayne and The Beach Boys respectively. It was at this point where he fell into a trance, entranced by the idea of The Walking Doggs being the next "Bruce Sprongstead." I took this as an opportunity to get what I came for, a real story. I sprang the question on him in his weakened state, the question on everyone's minds. Why did Will Wamser leave the Weekly? I'm afraid, dear readers, that I bit off more than I could chew as he awoke from his trance by smacking me in my face and about my head for several minutes. When he calmed down I informed him of the response the paper had gotten about his departure, but he refused to listen. He went to slam the door on me when he hesitated. In this hesitation, he began to cough into his hand and when the fit was over there was blood left on his palm. Mr. Wamser then got very quiet, put his hand on my shoulder and said, "sometimes life doesn't let you do the things you love and the hardest thing is accepting it." With that, Mr. Wamser left my home. I was shook by this moment, unsure of how to take it. I was then shook more so when I realized that he got his mouth blood all over my nice shoulder. And then shook even more so when an earthquake hit. I fear for his health, but am eternally grateful for the chance to meet a man of such measure. Hit me up on Facebook for the full story.

"I informed Mr. Wamser of the response the paper had gotten about his departure, but he refused to listen."

"Sometimes life doesn't let you do the things you love and the hardest thing is accepting it."

When your teacher is your neighbor

By Val Weisler
Staff Writer

It's 2 o'clock on a Friday afternoon, and I am in front of 24 fifth graders who stare wide-eyed at me as I get ready to interview their teacher. I fumble with my notebook, looking at the list of questions I've prepared.

"So, Mrs. Saba," I ask, "What made you want to be a teacher?"

Saba smiles and looks at her students. "I think I have always wanted to be a teacher. I loved learning. As a kid, I would set-up my bedroom as a classroom and act out being a teacher." She pauses as her students laugh. "However, as I grew up, I grew interested in business, particularly marketing and communications. After working in the business world and being away from the Lehigh Valley, I decided to do what I have always wanted to do in the back of my mind — teaching."

Juliet Saba, a fifth-grade teacher at Jefferson Elementary and a Muhlenberg alumna, has spent her entire teaching career in Allentown, but she has called the city home for much longer. Saba grew up in the 6th Ward, a predominantly Syrian neighborhood in Allentown. With six siblings, Saba is the youngest in her family and the only member born in the United States. "My parents were poor, didn't speak English and had no education themselves," she recalls. "They came to America for a better life. They arrived in Allentown only two years before I was born." While Saba loved school, much of it was difficult for her. "My parents couldn't speak English, so they couldn't come to my school conferences, meet with my teachers or help me with my homework. I had to learn to be independent and rely on myself to be a successful student."

Saba's story is not unlike many of the students in Allentown School District's classrooms. According to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, 85.14 percent of students in the Allentown School District are economically disadvantaged, and 89.15 percent are members of a minority group. The stigma associated with Allentown is one Saba works hard to diminish in her classroom.

> **"I always make it known to students that I went to school in Allentown ... I worked hard to achieve my goals."**

Saba tells us, "I always make it known to students that I went to school in Allentown, that I grew up in a home with another language, that my family didn't have much money, but I worked hard to achieve my goals."

The connection Saba has with her students is grounded on the fact that they both call Allentown home. Saba is not an outsider — she lives and breathes this city as much as her students do. While Saba leaves Jefferson Elementary at 3:30 p.m., her mind is always moving. "I want more people in the Lehigh Valley to see all the tremendous things that are happening in our classrooms and the dedication and determination of our teachers and students." Saba sighs and looks around her room, where her students are playing together while I finish the interview. She points at a student reading a book at his desk. "He reads at a 12th-grade level. He is going to get into any college he wants." She nods her head toward a girl playing with her friends on the carpet. "She can solve any math problem you give her." Saba looks at me with tears in her eyes. Grabbing a tissue, she says, "Allentown students and our district don't often get recognized for our academic rigor and achievement, but if people actually invested their time into our schools, they would see the incredible work that is done within our district."

Saba is taking her passion for education to the next level at Lehigh University, where she is currently completing her Masters in Educational Leadership and K-12 Principal Certification, and will graduate in the spring of this school year. As I watch Saba interact with her students, it is evident that she provides far more than the basics of an elementary school curriculum. Saba gives a rare representation for students — to see a first-generation student, a child of immigrants, a narrative so much like their own — in their teacher. There is incredible power in having the person who teaches you every day know your struggles and your fears, your streets and your stories, because they used to be sitting in your seat. Saba smiles and looks at her students. "Class, what do I always tell you that you can be?" she asks. They smile back and reply, "Anything."

GRAPHIC OPINIONS

Marvel Rising "rises" to the occasion

By Brooke Weber
Arts & Culture Editor

Let's face it, folks: we're living in the age of the super.

Marvel and DC films continually dominate the box office, comic book stores are filled to the brim with stories of heroes old and new (with multiple artists and writers tackling the same characters in dozens of universes all at once) and audiences can see themselves reflected in more and more protagonist roles. It's the age of Black Panther, of Wonder Woman; it's the age of Valkyrie and Jessica Jones and Luke Cage in all their struggles, triumphs and complexities. But these shows and films, though they certainly push boundaries in terms of mainstream representation combined with impeccable storytelling, aren't always accessible to those that might just need them most: young people. Some of Marvel's best new endeavors are simply not kid-friendly – I'm looking at you, Netflix original series – and, though their theatrical releases and comics tend to be a bit more on the tame side, there's still usually a barrier there, an agreement that this media was at least in part made for adult viewing, exacerbated by gatekeeping humor or background knowledge that separates older and younger viewers. Though I love the adult aspects of Marvel media as much as the next a-little-more-than-slightly-obsessed gal, I also know that, as a child, I would have loved to have seen something starring the characters I love that were made with me in mind, made with the goal of showing young people that they can have their heroes, too.

The answer just might lie in *Marvel Rising*, a new Disney series of straight-to-TV animated movies that features some of Marvel's most promising breakout comic characters in a kid-friendly context. The first film, *Marvel Rising: Secret Warriors*, was released at the end of September and featured a main cast of underappreciated cult favorites lead by Kamala Khan (a.k.a. Ms. Marvel), the Marvel universe's first Muslim superhero to get her own comic series. The film also prominently features several other trailblazers from recent comics history, including Rayshaun Lucas (Patriot), Doreen Green (Squirrel Girl) and, my personal favorite, former Young Avenger America Chavez (Miss America), all banding together to stop evil alien warriors from recruiting newly converted superheroes on Earth to fight in their brutal wars.

When I first heard about the *Marvel Rising* project, I was floored – the characters in it are loved deeply by a relatively niche audience and almost exclusively existed in the realm of comics before this film. Though I've read a few Ms. Marvel issues in my time and have a few random Squirrel Girl comics sprawled somewhere on a shelf back home, I am by far the most familiar with America Chavez and was shocked to learn that Disney would try and tackle her storyline in a kid's show. So I did what any reasonable Marvel-loving 20-year-old would do: I watched it.

You see, America Chavez is something of a paragon of representation in the comics world: she is a Latinx-coded alien from the Utopian Parallel, an in-between world where she was raised by her two mothers, Amalia and Elena Chavez, until the pair sacrificed themselves in order to keep the Parallel intact. America, only ten at the time, leaves her home and wanders through various dimensions (she can literally punch star-shaped portals into existence – pretty cool, right?) until she finally settles on Earth, using her invulnerability, super-strength and flying powers for good, though sometimes reluctantly – all America really wants to do is spend time with her pals, honor her mothers, and eventually have time to keep a steady girlfriend amid all the, you know, interdimensional travel and bad-guy-fighting and stuff. Admittedly, I was worried that she might be censored by Disney, that they might try and ignore her past and parents or play down her intermittent Spanish speech.

Marvel Rising, though, certainly rises to the occasion in this regard – within the first minute of the audience's introduction to America, we see her look longingly at a two-woman couple playing with their bouncing baby girl. America's got brown skin and big hair, and she floats between languages just as easily as she floats through the air ("I know you aren't grinding my gears, *idiota!*"): she refuses to be diluted. There's even a whole segment devoted to her backstory, which changes the logistics of America's arrival on Earth from the comics but maintains the story of her mothers' self-sacrifice. No one questions America's familial structure – in fact, every character readily accepts her story and uses it to help motivate America in her times of struggle, reminding her of her parents' pride in everything she does. It remains to be seen whether or not Disney will choose to include America's own queer identity in the rest of their planned movies, but I think there's a good chance that they will, hopefully with the same casual truth that illuminates her past and presents LGBTQ+ relationships as a part of everyday life.

Of course, the film's victories aren't limited to its portrayal of America Chavez. I'm overjoyed that Kamala Khan is the main character – she's an absolutely delightful superhero-loving nerd who unwittingly gained shape-shifting superpowers herself and has been trying to become like her hero, Captain Marvel, ever since. Kamala's mother is shown in the movie as a hijabi woman who, though somewhat strict, is kind, loving and supportive of her daughter. *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.* fans out there will appreciate the appearance of Agent Daisy Johnson (Quake), voiced by Chloe Bennet, the actress who plays her on the ABC network show – I couldn't help but squeal a bit once I heard the unmistakable sarcastic deadpan of Bennet's Daisy in her animated incarnation.

Though there are certainly moments when it's obvious that this is a show meant for younger audiences – mostly the parts in which Squirrel Girl's sidekick, a squirrel named Tippy-Toe, goes on extended rants in a squeaking voice unintelligible to all but Squirrel Girl herself – this simply serves to remind audiences that this is a format built for kid's consumption, built for them to enjoy and understand more fully than a mainstream Marvel film. It brings me so much happiness to know that a new generation of media-lovers will grow up with Kamala Khan and America Chavez's names in their mouths, will grow up with a vast array of superheroes to aspire to be like, will grow up knowing that justice doesn't begin and end with Steve Rogers. The path to a new world begins and ends with the young people of today, if only they're given the opportunity to realize just how super they can be.

FROM **WOMEN'S SOCCER** PAGE 12

the United Soccer Coaches Association. The match ended in a 0-1 defeat, with the lone goal scored on a penalty kick taken by the Blue Jays in the second half of the match.

The match against Ursinus continued, and the Mules controlled much of the game. Adversity struck the Mules shortly into the second half. With 30 minutes remaining in regulation the Mules committed a foul in their own penalty box giving the Bears an opportunity for a penalty kick of their own.

The odds were certainly not in Libby Juliano's '20 favor. She was ready for the task.

"During a penalty kick I try to stay as calm as possible," said Juliano. "I focus on the position of the player taking the kick and where her hips are facing. I try not to guess but if I can't read the player I dive the same way as her shooting foot."

Ursinus' Kasey Sheehan '19 lined up for the shot and sent a ground ball to the bottom right corner of the goal. Juliano left her feet, diving towards the shot. She met the ball before it could cross the goal line. The ball trickled out of Juliano's reach but she was quick to her feet and dove again - this time landing on the ball before Ursinus attackers could try to poke it in the goal.

The Mules were able to shut out the Bears 1-0 which was Juliano's fourth shutout of the season.

> **"Each player out there never gave up and pushed through the 110 minutes of the match. We came off the field proud of ourselves and performance."**

An underlying storyline of the game was the return of Kelly Wakeman, who is the Mules first year head coach who previously spent five seasons as the head coach of Ursinus. In her time at Ursinus Wakeman lead the Bears to two Centennial Conference semifinal appearances.

Next the Mules traveled to Gettysburg College to square off against the Bullets. The first half was a back and forth battle where both teams had opportunities, but neither could secure a goal. With just over a minute left in the first half of play, Gettysburg had a chance. After a scramble off of a Gettysburg corner, Virginia Sanford '19 scored the first goal of the game to give the Orange and Blue a lead headed into halftime.

The second half began and the Mules pressured Gettysburg heavily. It was then that Coach Wakeman decided to switch players around to generate some offense. Casarah Morales '20, who was named to the Mid-Atlantic all region team as a back moved up to the attacking third. It is a tactic the team has started to use in a few of their conference games.

"Playing offense in the last few games has been challenging but also fun. I love the opportunity to chase the ball down and try to make something happen for my team," said Morales. She continued, "I believe my role on the team is to lead on the field through communication and directing my teammates and setting a precedent of always giving 110 percent on the field at all times. But also by listening to my teammates directions and adapting my style of play to make the game easier for them."

This was the first time the move paid off in terms of a goal.

O'Brien had the ball at her feet inside the center circle of the field. She sent another long ball straight ahead, splitting a pair of Gettysburg defenders. A footrace between Morales and the Gettysburg keeper resulted in Morales sliding and poking the ball past the sliding goalie, into the goal to tie the game at one goal a piece.

"I would say transitioning from defense to offense is mentally more difficult because I have to change my perspective on the game but overall I can adapt easily especially with the guidance from my teammates," added Morales. She said she has not spent time in practice at her other position, but will go wherever she is asked.

The match against Gettysburg ended with the final score of 1-1 after regulation and two overtimes.

> **"The team is on an upward slope as we continue to improve and connect as the season progresses."**

"Each player out there never gave up and pushed through the 110 minutes of the match. We came off the field proud of ourselves and performance," said Juliano.

The weeks ahead lead the Mules straight into their final three conference games. If the season were to end today, the Mules would be on the outside looking in. They are three points, or one win from the 5th and final seed behind Haverford, however wins against two of their three next opponents should give them a strong enough boost to break in to the conference tournament.

Midfielder Karolyn Kawa '20 thinks the Gettysburg tie can help the team's attitude moving forward. "We refused to give up throughout the whole game, and we gave every ounce of energy and heart we had for the entire 110 minutes. It showed us that we can compete against some of the best competition in our conference, and it gave us some strong momentum."

If the Mules made the playoffs in 2018 it would be their first appearance since 2014 under former head coach Leslie Benintend. Kawa was excited for a chance to meet that mark. "The team is on an upward slope as we continue to improve and connect as the season progresses. We focus on one game at a time, but overall our minds are set on playoffs in our future."

Field Hockey eyeing road to Centennial Conference tournament

By Brandon Kossin
Contributing Writer

The Muhlenberg Women's Field Hockey squad continues to thrive in conference play. Over the last two weeks, they have faced five different conference opponents. Out of those five games, three of them resulted in victory.

On Sept. 22, the Mules traveled to Carlisle, Pa to take on the Dickinson Field Hockey team. This game finished with a score of 2-1 in Muhlenberg's favor. The first goal of the game was scored by Steph Rydgren '19, and assisted by Emily Davis '19. The Red Devil's matched the Mules at 1 score a piece, pushing the game into a shootout. The shootout was won by the Mules, as Rydgren again pushed the Mules to victory. Approximately a week and a half later, the Mules traveled to Bryn Mawr, leaving with another 2-1 victory. Key goals were scored by Jordyn Kamis '21 (assisted by Rachel Richards '21) and Jessica Oxer '21 to push the Mules past the Owls.

Later that week, the Mules hosted Johns Hopkins University, where things did not turn out the way they would have liked. The Mules were handed a 5-2 loss by the Blue Jays. The Mules struck first, scoring a goal in the first five minutes of the game. But Hopkins ended up being too much, scoring all five of their goals within a 45 minute span.

After this troublesome defeat, on Oct. 10, the Mules tried to turn things around against powerhouse Centennial Conference opponent, Ursinus. Unfortunately, they were unable to do so, being handed another tough 4-1 loss against the Bears. However, the tides turned during the following Saturday's matchup against Gettysburg. The Mules traveled to Gettysburg, and ended up leaving with a 1-0 victory. Their only goal was a heavily contested shot by senior, Steph Rydgren (assisted by Megan Webber).

There are many reasons to be optimistic about the rest of the season for the Muhlenberg Women's Field Hockey Squad. The team currently sits at a 5-2 Centennial Conference record, sitting at fourth in the conference. They are currently behind (1) Johns Hopkins (7-0), (2) Franklin & Marshall (7-1), and (3) Ursinus (6-1). "The team is starting to pick it up and we're working harder. It's been a collective effort and we're getting serious." said Jordan Segrave '20.

They are currently one game up on Washington College in the standings, finishing conference play against them on Oct. 27. This will be a key matchup for the Mules, but between the likely playoff seed deciding match the Mules will play McDaniel and Swarthmore who are both currently tied for last and second to last respectively.

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Photos Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Top: The Mules prepare to defend a corner on their home turf.
Bottom: Steph Rydgren '19 leads the Mules in goals and points in 2018.

Offense leads Football to two stellar road victories

By Alex Horowitz
Senior Staff Writer

Thirty four might be the magic number of this season.

For the second week in a row, the Muhlenberg football team rode its dominant offense to a victory while scoring 34 points, narrowly edging Thomas More College 34-31. In the previous week at Ursinus, the Mules had put a 34 spot as well, in their 34-14 win. The Mules now sit at a perfect 6-0 record and are tied for the twenty third spot in the American Football Coaches Association's and the D3football.com polls. The Mules are tied in both of these polls with Centennial Conference rival Johns Hopkins.

The Mules traveled to the state of Kentucky for the first time in over 70 years, according to the Muhlenberg Athletics website. Playing at Thomas More College, located just outside of Cincinnati, Ohio. Muhlenberg earned the win as time expired, on a field goal by kicker Todd Spirt '20.

"I could speak for most of the team in saying none of us have ever driven nine hours to play a football game in Kentucky. Playing Thomas More was an experience few teams get to have and it was awesome," said tight end Ryan Curtiss, '20, who caught eight passes for 150 yards and a touchdown in Crestview Hills, Ky. "The atmosphere was very different and our preparation for the game was very different. It was good to spend time with our team in the hotel and on two 9-hour bus rides and it only brought our team closer. Overall the trip was a lot of fun and very different then what we are used to and I am happy we came out with a win."

Curtiss was also named to D3football.com's team of the week.

The win in the bluegrass state marked the end of a successful road trip for a Mules team that is still sitting at the top of the Centennial Conference standings. Although the team has played nearly flawlessly this season, especially on the offensive side of the ball, everyone on the team has seemed to buy into the team philosophy that hard work still must be put in week in and week out, and nothing should be taken for granted.

"We're just trying to get better every week," said running back James Diggs, '21, who continued his stellar sophomore season with 56 rushing yards and a touchdown on the ground. "We are satisfied to be able to go out and compete at a high level each week, so we just are excited to be doing well." Diggs' touchdown came at a critical moment of the game, the Mules were down 24-31 and he was able to punch through a crowded goal line to equalize the game.

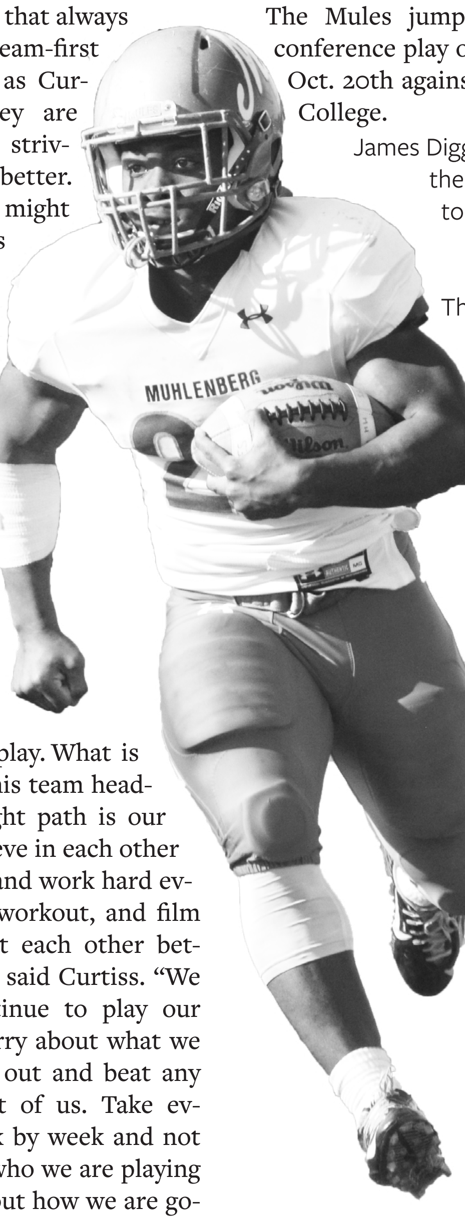
Both Curtiss and Diggs are two of the many contributors on offense that has allowed the team to put up an average of close to 40 points a game this year. In a sport such as college football, it takes all 11 guys on the field working together in order for plays to execute properly. And when plays are executed properly, points are scored, which leads to wins. It sees like a relatively simple equation, but it's not remotely possible without each member of the Mules buying into the winning philosophy that Coach Milne preaches on a weekly, if not daily, basis.

"We just try to carry out the excellent game plan Coach Milne creates for us each and every week. We trust the game plan he draws up and as long as we execute we feel we can compete in any game we play in," said Diggs. "We are just focused on the next game each and every week. All of our opponents are formidable foes and we know that, so we pride ourselves at being in our best shape to compete."

As much as the team has succeeded on the gridiron, it might be their strong team bond that has led to such dominance in the win column. Whatever it takes to win, the next man steps up. This is a team that always employs a team-first attitude, and as Curtiss says, they are continuously striving to get better. The Mules might have no losses right now, but this team is not looking back. They're simply looking ahead to their next scheduled opponent.

"We are 6-0 right now and we have a lot of football left to play. What is gonna keep this team heading in the right path is our ability to believe in each other on this team and work hard every practice, workout, and film session to get each other better each day," said Curtiss. "We need to continue to play our game and worry about what we can do to go out and beat any team in front of us. Take everything week by week and not worry about who we are playing but worry about how we are going to play and put it up to us to keep this team winning."

The Mules jump back into conference play on Saturday, Oct. 20th against McDaniel College.



James Diggs '21 scored the game-tying touchdown in Kentucky agasint Thomas More.

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Atlhetics

Men's Soccer bounces back following tough loss

By Noah Sellinger
Contributing Writer

After suffering losses to Rowan and Centennial Conference rival Gettysburg, the Muhlenberg men's soccer team bounced back beating both Moravian and Ursinus.

Traveling to Rowan against a tough team the Mules bounced back from an early deficit to tie the game up and send it to overtime. Kevin Hagan '20 ripped his team-leading third goal of the season off a cross from fellow Matt Athanas-Linden '20.

Getting the start in goal for the Mules was Raymond Leto, '20 who season recorded eight saves in his second start of the season. Unfortunately for the road team, Rowan was able to escape with an overtime win scoring a goal two minutes into the first overtime period.

Following that loss, Berg was up against Gettysburg and once again the Mules were unable to generate any consistent offense and fell to the Bullets 2-0. Despite leading the game in shots and shots on goal the Mules were unable to cash in any of their opportunities, including a penalty kick, against the number one ranked team in the Centennial conference. The Bullets were able to capitalize once in the first half and again eight minutes into the second half to put the game out of reach.

Looking to bounce back in a Lehigh Valley matchup the Mules took on Moravian and were able to generate plenty of offense in a 5-1 thrashing of the Hounds.

Luther, '20 and Hagan, '20 added two goals each and a Moravian own goal capped off the night for the Mules. Luther's two goals were both scored within the first five minutes of the match, marking the first time the same player has scored two goals in the first five minutes of a game. With zero shots on goal the 'Berg defense stifled Moravian giving Muhlenberg a much needed victory.

"The past two wins have been a big confidence booster for us as a team. We're gonna try to ride that momentum," said Teddy Kawoczka '20.

In the final game of the week the lads were up against the Ursinus Bears in another Centennial Conference battle. The Bears, who were still winless on the year, were unable to get in any offensive rhythm as the Mules defense shut them down completely.

A goal in the fourty third minute by Cam MilleR '21 was all 'Berg needed to get past the Bears and the victory put the Mules record on the year at 5-5-2 good for eighth in the Centennial Conference. "We have a crucial stretch coming up. It's gonna be a grind," said Jordan Cimring '20.

The Mules find themselves sitting at a 1.33 goals per game compared to their opponents .92 goals, having struggled throughout most of the year converting their offensive opportunities.

With the playoffs coming up the squad looks to turn around their offensive woes and pick up some big victories. Four out of their final five games are coming up against Centennial Conference opponents. Their remaining games include big matchups against the number one and two ranked squads in the conference, Dickinson and Haverford.

from **Volleyball** page 12

struggles of the previous game, the crew was able to showcase their dominance, taking the first set 25-16. Then, Applegate single handedly closed out the second set in dramatic fashion with her nine straight point ending serving run to win the set 25-15.

The third set continued in a similar form for the Mules as Applegate again went on for a late and critical serving run that would send Ursinus packing and take their winning record to 14-6 and up their conference record to 4-2.

Going from 3-0 win to a disheartening 0-3 to yet another 3-0 sweep, Applegate explained how the team was able to recover as quick as they did, "We went in taking them (Johns Hopkins) lightly and we couldn't make the same mistake against Ursinus. It was a mental thing. As a group we had to come back and win 3-0."

The ladies remained on the road for their next matchup with the Gettysburg Bullets, who sit as the fourth seed in the CC just ahead of the Mules. The Bullets came out with a chip on their shoulder having lost to the top seeded Franklin & Marshall Diplomats in their last go round and they certainly began with a surge.

To start the first set, the Bullets shot out to a 8-2 lead, but the Muhlenberg Mules could not be held back. They would bring it even 21-21 and eventually pull away for the 25-23 tight victory.

The second set would also fall in favor of the Mules 25-20 and with the the third set being taken by Gettysburg, the team looked to wrap it all up in the fourth. Helping the Mules get off on the right foot was Shannon Hubert 19' leading a six point serving run to begin the set. The ladies would take care of Gettysburg ending the set 25-22.

After a strong showing against fellow Centennial Conference foes, the women's Volleyball team upgraded their in-conference record to remarkable 5-2 and proved why they are one of the best and well-rounded squads in all of the Centennial.

With the season winding down and the playoffs drawing nearer, Applegate indicated the mindset going to the critical final three conference games of the year against McDaniel, Washington College, and Swarthmore saying, "We are coming off a lot of injuries and one of main focuses is to stay healthy. The mindset is also to play smart as well staying mentally sharp."

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Offense leads football to two stellar road Victories

Squad sitting pretty atop Centennial Conference standings

Read more on 10

Playing for the playoffs

Women's soccer nears the end of their season as they try to make a playoff push

By Matt Riebesell
Managing Editor

The opening whistle had sounded on Paterson Field on the campus of Ursinus College. Less than sixty seconds from the referee signaling the start of the game, the Muhlenberg women's soccer team was quickly working to secure a spot in the playoffs.

Makenzie O'Brien '19 started with the ball which she had collected off of a failed clear attempt by the Ursinus defense. Just thirty seconds into the game O'Brien sent a long lofting ball through the night sky onto the far post of the Ursinus goal. Sprinting down field was Danni Steigerwald '20, the team's leading scorer on the 2018 season. Steigerwald met the crossed ball and redirected it into the back of the net just 55 seconds into the game.

The game against Ursinus marked the start of the second half of the women's conference season. Throughout the first half the women showed that they could battle with the best in the conference and the nation. Just days prior to the showdown in Collegeville the Mules faced off against Johns Hopkins University who entered the match ranked fifth in the country by

see **Women's Soccer** page 10

Mules Volleyball returns from midwest with authority

By Alex Blum
Contributing Writer

On the heels of their big road trip to the Midwest against a trio of strong, highly skilled teams, the women's Volleyball team returned to action on Wednesday Oct. 3, on the road again at Bryn Mawr. This would mark the first of four crucial inconference games in a row. Already standing at 2-1 in conference play, the women looked to improve and continue their rise, especially as the season winds down and the playoff picture becomes clearer.

For Bryn Mawr, having lost their last game against another Centennial Conference member in Gettysburg and with their current position of last in the Centennial Conference (CC), the Mules came in as the clear favorite and did not disappoint. The ladies were successfully able to shut down the Owls from generating any momentum and creating any offense as they would go on to take down the Owls in three straight sets of 25-16, 25-10, 25-13. The team, with the help of Tara Register '20 and Gabrielle Neumann '20, was able to accumulate 40 kills while holding Bryn Mawr to a meager 14 and bolster their conference record to 3-1.

Following the promising trip to Minnesota, Kendall Applegate '21 said of the dominant victory, "We build from our losses and we take losses hard, we watch film and we ask what we can do differently. We were able to build off our mistakes and we regrouped."

The Mules were back in Allentown for their matchup with the Blue Jays of Johns Hopkins University on Oct. 9, who sit in second place in the CC just behind Franklin & Marshall. Each set was action packed, however, the group, having five players out with injuries, could never take command and take the game away from the Blue Jays. Following their victory in three straight sets, the Mules this time would fall in three straight.

Although being dealt a tough loss at the hands of Johns Hopkins, the squad proved their resilient nature against the 7-14 Ursinus Bears in Collegeville, PA. Putting behind them the

see **Volleyball** page 11

Coming up this week in
SPORTS

Field Hockey
Muhlenberg vs McDaniel
Friday, Oct. 19 @ 7:00 pm
Scotty Wood Stadium

Volleyball
Muhlenberg vs McDaniel
Friday, Oct. 19 @ 1:00 pm
Memorial Hall

Football
Muhlenberg vs McDaniel
Saturday, Oct. 20 @ 2:00 pm
Scotty Wood Stadium

Women's Soccer
Muhlenberg vs McDaniel
Saturday, Oct. 20 @ 1:00 pm
Varsity Field

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Read inside:
What students and staff need to know about two-factor authentication
read more on 4

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2018
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NEWS

Members of the LGBTQ+ faculty and staff collective that formed last year reflect and look at how the organization has been promoting change and community.

read more on 3

A&C

Silent films are back! 2016 Muhlenberg graduate Bryson Kemp '16 performed live music for one of the first horror films, Nosferatu, on Sunday, Oct. 21.

read more on 7

OP/ED

News editor Melissa Reph, currently abroad in Washington D.C., asks other Muhlenberg students what it's like to be at the center of it all.

read more on 8

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

SPORTS

Mules' football busses to Baltimore to potentially clinch a share of the Centennial Conference championship.

read more on 12

Overture
Brigadoon
Ensemble
Ensemble
Ensemble

"Come ye to the fair!"

Cheyanne Leid '20 and Julian Mone '19 shine as Fiona MacLaren and Tommy Albright in Lerner and Lowe's *Brigadoon.*

Read on page 5.

Questioning the integrity of the AIC

By Sophia Richter
Contributing Writer

Show of hands: who has actually read the Academic Integrity Code (AIC) in full? Could you give a basic overview of the AIC to someone who knew nothing about it? Honestly, how many students write, "I pledge the AIC" and sign their names on papers solely because professors put in their syllabi that it is a requirement?

Originally entitled the Academic Behavior Code, the college implemented the AIC in 1980 and revised it five other times, with the most recent revision occurring in 2009.

"As an academic community devoted to the discovery and dissemination of truth," the code states, "Muhlenberg College insists that its students will conduct themselves honestly in all academic activities." It then states that all students must pledge to abide by the code and hold themselves accountable for maintaining integrity in their work. Students must sign the phrase, "I pledge that I have complied with the AIC in this work" or just "I pledge the AIC." The code then goes on to list what counts as a violation of the AIC (cheating, plagiarism, collusion, false information and helping or hindering others) and outlines the consequences of being found guilty of committing one of these offenses.

According to both the AIC and Sharon Albert, professor of Religion Studies and member of the Academic Judicial Board, if a student is suspected of violating the AIC, the professor is required to discuss the allegation with the student, issue a punishment appropriate to the severity of the offense and write a letter to the Dean of Academic Life to put in the student's folder. The student then has the option either to accept the consequence or appeal. If they choose to appeal, they must have a hearing with the Academic Judicial Board, who will decide whether or not the student is guilty. The Academic Judicial Board consists of six faculty members, and a number of students, six of whom are chosen to be involved at each individual hearing. Hearings are also mandatory if it is a student's second violation. Students are also granted a mentor in these hearings, who can advise students in the best course of action.

"I mean, I know not to plagiarize, but I've never read our school's code," says Alyssa Crook '19. "I learned not to plagiarize in high school."

Most of the students that were interviewed regarding the

see **AIC** page 3

The yearbook makes a comeback

How the Ciarla plans to bounce back

By Shan Jameson
Contributing Writer

The 125-year-old yearbook the Ciarla was doomed until Bea Collins, a sophomore at the time, came to its rescue in 2016. With an ongoing struggle to keep the yearbook alive, Collins and academic advisor Donna Fahringer continue to fight an uphill battle to keep the Ciarla present in Muhlenberg's community.

> **"We want this book to be about life at Muhlenberg and allow everybody to have some skin in the game."**

Collins is now a senior and is the Editor-in-Chief of the Ciarla. Collins has been working with Fahringer, who is also Administrative Assistant for the Office of Communications, since last year when she became the new academic advisor of the organization.

With past issues such as lack of teamwork, irresponsibility and lack of student involvement, it has been a difficult run for the Ciarla. Collins and Fahringer have been working hard on recruiting students from all grade levels by spreading the yearbook's importance and positive qualities it gives students during college and after graduation. They have strayed away from past problems and have been emphasizing the importance of what it takes to work within a team and what it takes to be responsible.

"The yearbook is the one avenue where the students get to tell the history," said Fahringer. "Being able to have the history in a book is so much different than having it in any digital media source. Yearbooks are like coffee table conversation pieces, and they can tell the history through the student's perspective."

Although Collins and Fahringer have kept the yearbook alive, there has been an ongoing struggle to maintain students' involvement.

"This semester we have a much more rigorous system for recruiting in place," said Collins. "However, it's still tough to get people to show up for meetings. I got about 40 names from

see **Yearbook** page 4

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

Monday, October 15
Check the Welfare - 7:48 a.m.
On 23rd and Gordon there was a report to locate a student. Contact was made and the student was transported to the hospital.

Found Property - 9:01 p.m.
In Seegers Dining Commons there was a report of a found wallet which was later returned to the owner.

Tuesday, October 16
Traffic Accident - 12:15 p.m.
On Chew Street, there was a report of minor motor vehicle accident. Individuals exchanged information with each other. There was no further incident reported.

Suspicious Activity - 9:22 p.m.
In Brown Hall there was a report of the smell of marijuana. The area was checked and individuals were identified and spoken to. There was no further incident reported.

Injured Visitor - 5:55 p.m.
In Trexler Library, there was a report of an injured visitor. The individual was identified and spoken to but refused further treatment or transport.

Wednesday, October 17
Found Property - 11:25 a.m.
On Front Drive there was a report of a found cell phone. The item was later returned to the owner.

Sick Student - 3:37 p.m.
In Trexler Library there was a report of a sick student. Muhlenberg EMS responded and the student was transported to the hospital.

Sick student - 8:30 p.m.
In Seegers Dining Commons there was a report of a sick student. Muhlenberg EMS responded but the student refused further treatment or transport.

Thursday, October 18
Fire alarm - 12:57 a.m.
In Robertson Hall there was a report of a fire alarm sounding from burnt food. The system was silenced and reset.

Disabled Vehicle - 7:00 p.m.
At Martin Luther Hall there was a request to jump start a vehicle. Campus Safety successfully started the vehicle.

Friday, October 19
Suspicious Activity - 2:32 a.m.
In Walz Hall, there was a report of the smell of marijuana. The area was checked but nothing could be found.

Fire Alarm - 8:16 a.m.
In Robertson Hall there was a report of a fire alarm sounding from steam from a shower. The system was silenced and reset.

Hit-and-Run - 7:00 p.m.
At Robertson Hall there was a report of a hit and run to a vehicle causing paint damage. The investigation is to continue.

Saturday, October 20
Alcohol Violation - 12:50 a.m.
In Brown Hall there was a report of a alcohol violation. The student was transported to the hospital by Campus Safety.

Sunday, October 21
Suspicious activity - 12:25 a.m.
On Leh Street there was a report of suspicious activity. Allentown Police Department responded and will be citing residents for Disruptive Conduct Violation. The investigation is to continue.

Alcohol Violation - 1:10 a.m.
In Walz Hall there was a report of an alcohol violation. The alcohol was disposed of by Campus Safety and the investigation is to continue.

Injured Visitor - 12:56 p.m.
In the General's Quarters there was a report of an injured visitor. Both Muhlenberg and Allentown EMS responded and the individual was transported to the hospital.

FALL TREATS AT JAVA JOE!

PUMPKIN BISCOTTI

APPLE CAKE
java joe

Peer educator program makes strides toward eradicating sexual assault on campus

By Hannah Turner
Contributing Writer

Muhlenberg has joined the wider world's conversation on sexual assault and gender violence by providing more resources and education to students, such as the Prevention Education Department, which was established on campus last year by Ann Marie Stevens.

This department exists to provide education, support and resources regarding sexual and gender violence, as well as drug and alcohol misuse. It is also intent on collaborating with other departments, creating safe spaces for students and student survivors across campus.

"Muhlenberg cares, and their fellow students care," states Lauren Padko '20, a student at the forefront of this program. Padko has worked with Stevens to create a space for student involvement in these difficult conversations.

The Gender/Sexual Violence Peer Educator program was created to build off the work orthe Prevention Education Department. Stevens stressed that there was a great need on campus for students to be provided with accurate information regarding these difficult topics. It stemmed from a previous organization that provided a hotline for survivors or anyone on campus who needed to talk about anything related to sexual or gender violence. However, Stevens claims that the trend has shifted, and that having students be the educators in these cases is far more effective. When establishing this organization, Stevens and Padko discussed the importance of being proactive as well as providing support and resources.

The program has been created to educate students on topics such as sexual and gender violence, harassment, dating violence and stalking. Not only does this program work through education, it also intends to provide resources for every student on campus, whether or not they have been exposed to any of the listed situations.

Another key aspect of this organization is making sure that students have resources and tools that go beyond Muhlenberg's campus, preparing them for any potential instances either at home or post-grad.

Padko and Stevens want this program to show Muhlenberg students that they have access to resources if something were to go wrong or they were to have questions. There is a huge education component as well, and the selected peer educators will be trained in leading education programs for fraternity and sorority life, athletic teams, as well as other campus organizations. Through training sessions and open conversations, students will become empowered and able to discuss these topics, and eventually change the culture on sexual assault and gender violence on our campus and beyond.

FROM **AIC** PAGE 1

AIC had either not read it, or had briefly skimmed it. The only ones who seemed to have thoroughly read it were those who were tutors at the Writing Center, or those who had been accused of violating the code. Students generally agree that they would do the same work regardless if they had written and signed the pledge to the AIC on their paper. "To me, it's just a dumb thing that they make a lot of the freshmen do," says Lydia DeKok '19.

Nonetheless, Albert still recognizes the value in the Code.

"Really, it's about all of us taking seriously the value of intellectual property and the value of what we do here," says Albert. "It's not about punitive measures, it's about how we respect and take very seriously the ideas that we share. That's what academic integrity is really about."

Albert also adds that while plagiarism or cheating may be an instant solution to a problem, it ultimately will do nothing but harm the student.

"Better to get a zero on an assignment than not to get anything out of it," she says. "If you've taken an assignment off of Wikipedia, there's no value in what you've done for yourself."

The students that were interviewed collectively agreed that it is important to have a concrete document to refer to, in case students find themselves in situations where their adherence to the code is brought into question.

"[It is] important for a school to have this [document] so the work of a student isn't complete bullshit," says Ellie Swartz '19. "It sets a standard of work."

While it seems to be the outward general consensus that plagiarism is wrong, the reality is that no matter how many times students hear about the AIC, there are still going to be students who commit violations.

"Most often students plagiarize or violate the Academic Integrity Code because of two things," says Albert, "they aren't informed enough about what they're doing, and the other thing is that so often it happens because students panic." While this may be true, there are also other reasons why students plagiarize.

"It's [almost] always accidental. Whenever someone plagiarizes, it just means they don't know how to cite," says Julia Baker '19, who is a tutor in the Writing Center. "So if anything, we shouldn't be teaching the AIC, we should be teaching people how to cite within their document."

On the other hand, both Swartz and Matt Beaune '20 agree that the efforts of the school to make students aware of the AIC starting as early as the first year demonstrated that it was important to the school, therefore elevating it as a place of significance in students' minds. However, this place of significance seems to lurk in the back of students' minds, rather than in the foreground.

"It's not something that we have to think about so much now," says Swartz.

"If it was introduced after freshman year, I would not have necessarily been compelled [to not plagiarize]," adds Beaune. "because it wouldn't have been, from day one, [that] this is such an important thing."

Nonetheless, Albert still encourages students to familiarize themselves with the Academic Integrity Code.

"Don't wait until it applies to you. It's about your intellectual properties and your ideas," says Albert.

LGBTQ+ faculty and staff collective fosters community

By Sarah Dolan
Contributing Writer

Formed on campus in 2017, the LGBTQ+ Faculty and Staff Collective serves as both a social identity group and a way to promote positive change in the Muhlenberg community for its LGBTQ+ identifying members. Membership for the collective is open to all faculty, staff, graduate interns and those who support the objectives of the group.

Before the group was formed, one of its founding members, Mark Smiley, assistant director of multicultural life, recognized the lack of community on campus for LGBTQ+ faculty and staff.

"When I came on board with the college in 2015, I noticed that while there were a number of visible and out queer faculty and staff, there didn't appear to be a space for queer professionals to collectively advocate for our interests or concerns, or even to identify one another for relationship building or networking," says Smiley.

While the collective's primary purpose is to provide opportunities for socializing and advocacy, it fulfills different needs for each of its members.

> **"Future plans include continuing to grow our community and our organization."**

"I joined the effort in the fall 2018 semester because I thought it was important to create a greater sense of community for queer-identified faculty and staff on the Muhlenberg campus," says Dr. Casey Miller, assistant professor of anthropology. "[It's] also important to get the word out about what a diverse and queer group of faculty and staff we have here."

Since this group is still in its growth stage, the biggest challenge that LGBTQ+ faculty and staff face at Muhlenberg is visibility on campus.

"There are a lot of queer-identified faculty and staff in our college community, but many students and other faculty and staff might not be aware of who we are," observes Miller. "We are also spread out amongst various academic departments, programs and offices."

This lack of visibility that LGBTQ+ faculty receive on campus makes this group's mission increasingly relevant, especially as the community grows.

"Muhlenberg LGBTQ+ faculty and staff is growing," notes Miller. "More queer-identified faculty and staff are coming to work at Muhlenberg every year, and it is our hope that the LGBTQ+ Faculty and Staff Collective will provide resources and a sense of community for those joining our ranks."

Despite its growing presence on campus, the group serves primarily social purposes for now, with plans to focus on advocacy in the future.

"[It's] primarily a social group right now—we hold a variety of social events, including a welcome-back potluck every fall and an end-of-the year barbecue every spring to give us a chance to meet and connect with one another," says Miller. "But we also hope to play an advocacy role in terms of raising the profile and visibility of queer-identified faculty and staff in our community, and advocating for the interests and needs of queer-identified faculty and staff on campus."

The group's social events typically draw a decent crowd, with about 20 queer-identified faculty, staff and allies in attendance at the welcome back barbecue this year. Many of these attendees included those new to the Muhlenberg community, according to Miller. "It was a great way to kick off our new group and also to start the new academic year," he adds.

> **"Many students and other faculty and staff might not be aware of who we are."**

In the future, the group hopes to strengthen its voice and visibility on campus, as well as become more involved with other groups.

"Future plans include continuing to grow our community and our organization," notes Miller. "Plans also involve holding monthly social events and gatherings, holding elections for leadership positions and increasing our collaboration with student-led organizations."

Plans also include branching out to broaden the scope of their influence, creating a more accepting campus community and in turn advocating for others.

"Something of interest to the group is exploring how we might nurture and support other professional, identity-based groups that may emerge in the future," says Smiley. "We see ourselves as a group interested in seeking justice and equity for professionals of all identities, with a specific support for queer professionals, and are interested in building coalition with other groups as they emerge."

The importance of online security

What you need to know ahead of the launch of two-factor authentication

By Sydney Coplin
News Editor

Cole Geissler / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Students opted-in to two-factor authentication at the education event in Seegers Union.

Beginning on Monday, Oct. 29, off-campus students who wish to access their application portal, including but not limited to Google Suite, Canvas and Handshake, will be required to provide a secondary form of identification in addition to regular input of their username and password. This process is part of the implementation of two-factor authentication, a security initiative that has been in the works for nearly a year, according to Allan Chen, chief information officer.

Two-factor authentication officially began with faculty and staff this summer.

“We went live on June 25, which is not usually an ideal time for a change like this,” says Chen. “Faculty were not checking email as regularly, and many were overseas. We got a lot of questions about the latter scenario in particular. But everyone got set up regardless of time and location, and we′ve received many comments that it was far smoother than they expected. Many have said that they appreciate the additional security.”

With the timing already being a challenge in introducing two-factor authentication to faculty and staff, the decision was made to wait for the semester to actually begin before students would be required to use it as well. It has also been a standard for other institutions to allow faculty and staff to precede students with the introduction of two-factor authentication, according to Chen.

Nonetheless, the time has finally come for students to have this added security measure.

“We will turn on two factor early in the morning of October 29th, eastern time,” says Chen. “If you′re on campus, nothing will noticeably change. If you′re off campus, then, after you enter your username and password into the application portal, it′ll wait until you′ve provided the 2nd factor (or hit ″accept″ on your phone, which automatically sends the six digit code) before it′ll let you in. If you haven′t set up a second factor yet it′ll prompt you to do so. You′ll be prompted once a day, per browser. So if you switch from Chrome to Safari, it′ll ask again.”

There are two options for providing the second factor, including either downloading and using the OneLogin Protect Smartphone App or through a text message sent directly to your phone. Chen notes that the app is the preferred method but a text message will work too.

In addition to anyone who is physically off-campus on Monday morning, international students as well as anyone living in off-campus housing will also have to go through two-factor authentication when attempting to login to their application portal, even if they are currently on-campus when it goes into effect. This is due to the fact that both groups are considered to be off-campus by the school.

Muhlenberg’s choice to enable two-factor authentication for strictly off-campus access is distinct from other institutions like Princeton University, North Carolina State University and Indiana University, all of which require secondary verification for every login attempt, including on-campus, according to Chen.

“We decided to make it off-campus only because of two reasons. First and foremost, an attack would almost certainly originate from off-campus,” explains Chen. “Second, we were concerned about faculty, staff and students needing to authenticate all the time for Canvas, for instance, which is often needed right at the start of class. We vetted this without security consultants and they agreed this was a sound approach.”

The implementation of two-factor authentication follows a string of recent phishing attempts that have been widespread across many campus email accounts. Earlier this month, for example, many students received suspicious emails regarding part-time jobs that also attempted to gain personal information.

Two-factor authentication will be a necessary step in protecting students’ online security, especially with these instances of attempted phishing.

“More than 90 percent of system compromises start off with a phishing scam, and all it takes is just a small number of people to fall for the scam to severely impact data security,” notes Chen. “Two-factor dramatically decreases the chance of someone getting into your account without authorization or by pretending to be you. Phishing is how people get in, and two-factor is how you prevent successful phishes from leading to data compromises.”

Chen also emphasizes that “the best way to avoid a phishing scam is to recognize one in the first place, and not fall for it at all.”

“Two factor protects you should you fall for it, but ideally you avoid them in the first place. This is where our user education program kicks in. We are planning a program to educate faculty, staff and students on how to spot phishing scams, as well as how to keep better and stronger passwords, be more security aware, etc,” he adds.

Beyond two-factor authentication, there are many other ways to be more cautious online.

“I hope that people will become more and more aware of good cyber security practices over time. Better able to spot phishing scams, using stronger passwords and a password manager, and understanding the dangers of, say, free WiFi at your local Starbucks,” notes Chen. “It′s a long process and we can′t overwhelm the community with new content and training and tools all at once, but the long term goal is awareness, plus tools to act on that awareness.”

* * *

from **Yearbook** page 1

the Activities Fair, and I have maybe five people show up to a meeting. One of the problems may be that the group is not a social one like the Outdoors Club. The yearbook is project-based.”

Collins′ goal for the year is to find students to take on the role of editors so that most of the content work is taken care of.

″This way I can focus primarily on teaching underclassmen how to use the system because it took me three years to learn the system on how does the book building software work. Once I′m gone there′s no one else on campus who knows the software this well so basically that′s my job/goal of this year,” said Collins.

“We want this book to be about life at Muhlenberg and allow everybody to have some skin in the game,” said Fahringer. “We want everybody to contribute and have fun with it and look forward to it coming out. One of the reasons to keep the organization alive is so that 10,15, 20 years from now when you look back and you pull your yearbook out, or you’re getting together with friends at a reunion you’re going to laugh at how you were dressed or look back on the events you were at. You will reminisce about your past time at Muhlenberg and nothing but the Ciarla yearbook can accomplish that.”

Ciarla
Directory of New Students
MUHLENBERG COLLEGE 1000
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A Sesquicentennial Celebration
1848 - 1998
CIARLA

Not only do Collins and Fahringer want the yearbook to allow students to reminisce about the past, but they also want it to create a present-day community.

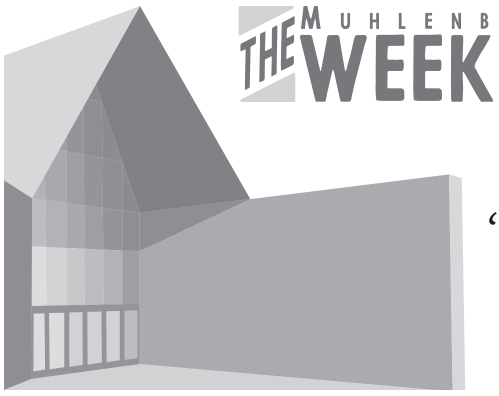
“What we′re hoping to do is not just have a small group of students create the book but to get the whole community of students of every grade and have them contribute in one way or another,” said Fahringer. “It may be writing a short article on what the Career Center Road Trips are like or writing a small article about what sororities are doing on campus, to submitting photos through the new IsImageShare app that is now available to all students and faculty.”

IsImageShare allows every individual in the Muhlenberg community to submit images. By submitting the images they go directly into the program where the editors can use it to hold their content, and they can pull the submitted images into different sections of the Ciarla.

The yearbook also allows students to gain real world experience.

“The bulk of the book is done in the second half of the year,” said Collins. “Second semester all the fall sports and Greek initiations are done. So, I do a lot of groundwork the first semester of the school year and then the second semester that is when I work on layouts. During the fall I work on recruiting members.”

“Working with the yearbook is a little snapshot of what the career world is like because the editors must come together and work cooperatively to put out an end product.” added Fahringer. “Subsequently, they all must collaborate and talk about style and design and what photos they want to put in.”



"Normal is an illusion. What is normal for the spider is chaos for the fly."

- Charles Adams

Performance Spotlight:
Unchained Theatre Collective

By Abigail Sherman
Staff Writer

This past Thursday night marked the first performance of the year by the Unchained Theatre Collective. Their showcase featured performers from different backgrounds of race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and age, creating a diverse platform for students to use different forms of performing art to discuss their identity. Performers were given the task to take a specific performance piece, whether it was a song, poem or monologue, and use it as their identity.

Opening the performance was Sophia Echevarria '21, performing the classic ballad from *Fame,* "Out Here On My Own." Halfway through the song, Echevarria was literally left out on her own when her track buffered. Instead of stopping her performance though, Echevarria pushed through and finished her performance even stronger than she started. When asked how she recovered from losing her music, Echevarria simply responded, "It's happened to me before. I think the main focus is just [to] keep going."

Acknowledging that she elevated her energy level, Echevarria said, "I definitely felt in that moment, I had to pick it up." She also acknowledged how the song fit with the showcase's theme, saying, "That song has been with me ever since I found it my freshman year of high school. If you listen closely to the words, every single word, and if you listen to the musical *Fame,* it's just very vulnerable and the song is vulnerable. It just builds and there's a delicateness at the end. I love it so much. And that's also why it was so easy to keep going because I know it like the back of my hand."

An original poem titled "Dismantle" by Kelly Steltz '21; slam poetry "Change" by Connor Baker '22; Lianne La Havas' song "Unstoppable" performed by Celeste Samson '22 and her ukelele; "Skeleton Dance," an original poem by Cece Ruvinksy '21; Nicole Morris '21 performing a monologue from *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/when the rainbow is enuf*; Xavier Pacheco '19 and his original rap "Little Bit"; and Dalissa Duran '19 performing "Hair," a spoken-word piece written by Elizabeth Acevedo followed Echevarria's performance.

Speaking with some students after the performances, many felt that it was refreshing to see so many diverse people repre-

see **Showcase** page 6

Abigail Sherman / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Celeste Samson '22 performs Lianne La Havas' song "Unstoppable" on the ukulele at Unchained Theatre Collective's Identity Showcase.

"Come ye to the fair!" A preview of *Brigadoon*

By Brooke Weber
Arts & Culture Editor

The stage is dark, but not *quite* dark enough. The translucent trees are lit with mottled green and blue and dusky rose; they descend from the sky and hang ethereally over the group of actors who float to their places, guided by the barest tint of blue on the otherwise black set. The lights come up, a wash of morning sun. Now you see them –

"Once in the Highlands, the Highlands of Scotland, deep in the night on a murky brae..."

– now you don't. The lilting, choral music ends after a few lines, the stage fades to that not-quite-black that keeps the actors safe but places us, the audience, in limbo; a mesh-like scrim that ripples like water at the slightest touch separates us from the figures we just saw, divides their reality from ours. "This should be very, very dark and dreamlike," advises director Charlie Richter as the cast of *Brigadoon* prepares to run the opening of the show again, making minor tweaks in the lineup and the lighting. The stage is a picture in the process of painting, poetry just before the right word is found. In just a few days' time, and after a few final touches, this artwork will be ready for all to see.

Brigadoon marks the second mainstage of the 2018/2019 Muhlenberg theatre season and will run from Oct. 26 to 28 and Nov. 1 to 4. Written by legendary duo Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe (who also composed and wrote *My Fair Lady* and *Camelot*) and originally run on Broadway in 1947, this show incorporates many of the classic musical elements of its time, according to Julian Mone '19, who plays leading man Tommy Albright.

"*Brigadoon* is a story about two men who find a mystical Scottish village in the Highlands, in that village they find love, but they soon come to learn that what makes the village so special is a secret of miracle sized proportions," Mone said. "They just don′t write shows like this anymore. [There are] ten-part ensemble harmonies, big ballet sequences, 21-piece orchestra and lots of big songs filled with larger than life romance. Overall this show is just beautiful, visually stimulating and lets us indulge in the literal magic of love.″

This beauty was evident to me from even the small snippet I was able to witness whilst observing a tech rehearsal – I sat in awe at even the slightest light change or microphone adjustment. For instance, making the trees blue or yellow completely changed the mood of the entire piece, and Richter had a clear vision of how he wanted the audience's first interaction with the musical to go. By obscuring the Brigadoon residence's entrance from the audience's prying eyes until they have arrived on stage, arrested in motion, Richter allows the audience to come to know Brigadoon as both a mysterious place and a site of barely contained stasis, a site where people live and breathe and sing but are still confined to their marks, cleverly alluding to the town's unfortunate fate. To find out just what that fate is, well, you'll have to see the show for yourself.

From this spellbinding opening number, the show transitions into a much more casual, conversational tone with the introduction of the two American hunters who facilitate the audience's entrance into Brigadoon: Tommy Albright (Mone) and Jeff Douglas (John Capocasale '22). The pair are lost in the middle of the Scottish wilderness, though one half is lost in more than one sense of the word. As Jeff teasingly points out, Tommy has everything he could ever want back home – a job, a home, a gorgeous fiancée – and yet, for him, something is missing. "You seem to be very satisfied," Tommy says to Jeff, his eyebrows creased.

"I am," Jeff replies, taking a swig from his ever-present flask. "Aren't you?"

Tommy sighs. "No, I'm not."

The two men eventually hear distant singing, similar choral tones that the audience recognizes from the beginning of the show, and the exploration of Brigadoon begins as the stage transforms into a lively market. A new song is introduced with the impressive bass tones of Zach Arencibia '22, contrasted with Candice Belina '19's strong soprano and Rachel Horun '19's melodic alto line, all singing in something akin to a round. As more and more actors join these three on the stage, the music rises and becomes a joyful, classic ensemble number. These variations in music are some of Cheyanne Leid '20's favorite parts of the show as a whole.

"I play Fiona in the show," said Leid. "I absolutely love to sing this part. It just feels amazing to let the notes of my upper register sort of float or soar into the space. Singing in Empie is also a treat because it gives me freedom to really fill the room with sound when the emotional intensity builds. The score has some of the most beautiful choral arrangements for the musical theatre stage, as well as many songs the audience will recognize as theatre standards. Towards the end of the show, the music blooms into the most compelling almost operatic ballads. The show is known for its plentiful dance numbers. The ballets are so beautiful! I get teary eyed every time I watch them."

see **Brigadoon** page 6

FROM **SHOWCASE** PAGE 5

sented. Avital Zemel '22 said, "I thought it was good and interesting to hear different people's perspectives on different issues."

Rebeka Jofre '21 added, "I liked it; a lot of the stuff that was said in the performances impacted me personally and I could relate to some of it so I thought it was really cool."

> **"It's not creating people, it's spotlighting them, centering people who never get centered."**

Unchained Theatre Collective president Amisha Datta '21 provided some perspective on the purpose and history of the group. "Last year was our first year. I think that we needed this outlet, so it's nice to see that it can happen and people show up and enjoy themselves." Speaking to the performance's attendance, Datta said, "I was really happy with it! Last year we only had one showcase, and that was well-attended, so I wanted to make sure people showed up this year. Our PR made posters, we did our best to spread the word and people came out. You have to give them credit; people care about this kind of stuff."

Datta also provided insight on how performances like these affect the social culture at Muhlenberg. "It helps with representation on campus. There are a lot of people here who are, for lack of a better phrase, people of color on campus. We are performers, we write, just like all the other creators on campus. We don't always feel like there is an outlet, so I don't think it's necessarily changing the world, but it's providing a space for people who are already here to show up. It's not creating people, it's spotlighting them, centering people who never get centered."

Looking towards the future of Unchained Theatre Collective and the possibility of more students getting involved, Datta said, "We are a space; we provide performance opportunities. We also provide space for people who write, if you want to cast your own one-act play or a monologue you want someone to perform, anything like that. We regularly have conversations, and we're trying to find more people to teach workshops on campus."

> **"We [POC] are performers, we write, just like all the other creators on campus."**

To learn about and support Unchained Theatre Collective, follow them on Facebook and Instagram at Unchained Theatre Collective.

Photo Courtesy of Scott Snyder

The company of *Brigadoon* poses triumphantly on the Empie stage.

FROM **BRIGADOON** PAGE 5

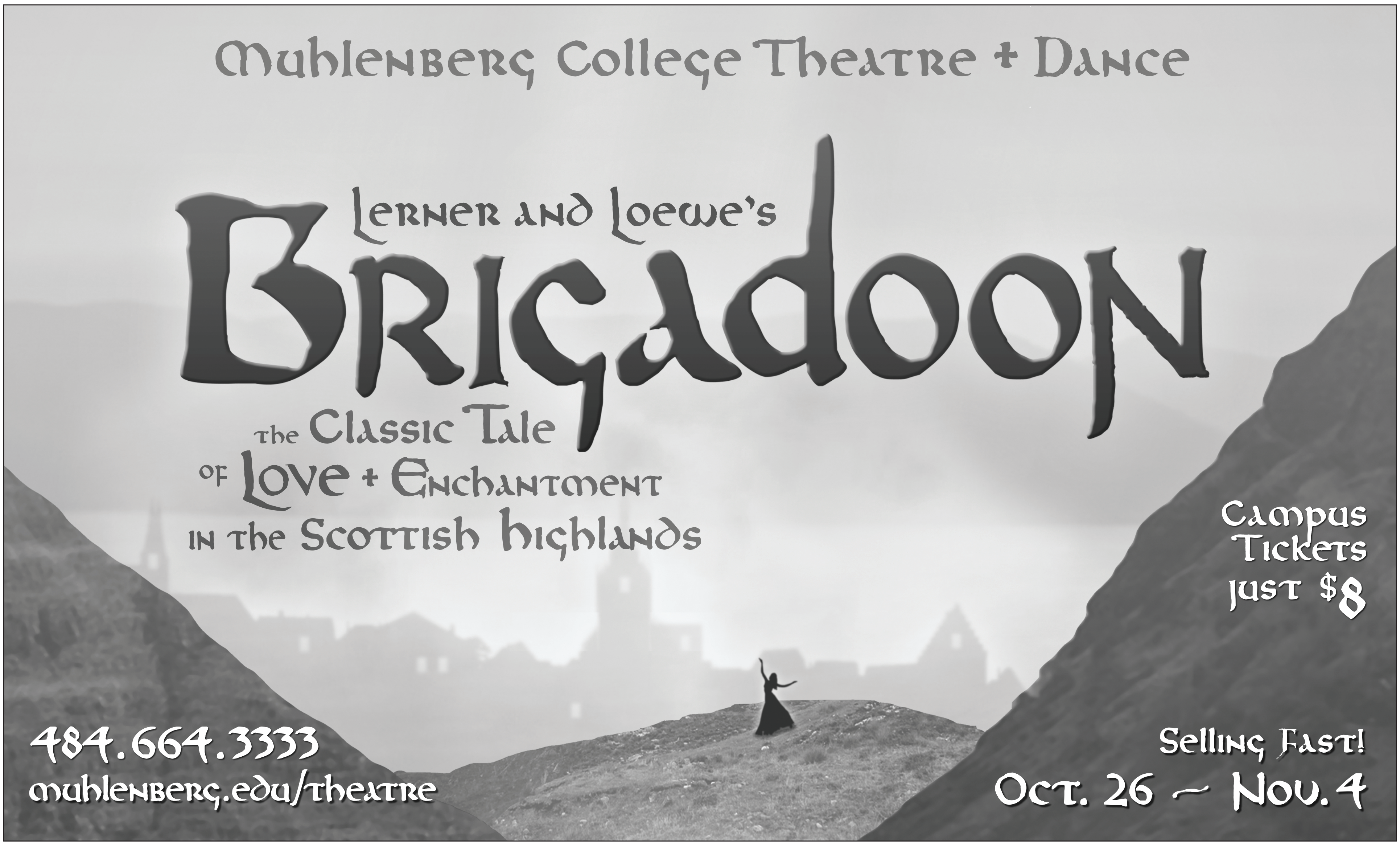
This dancing sets *Brigadoon* apart from many other theatrical mainstages 'Berg has put on in the recent past, and I too found it was one of the most delightful aspects of the piece – watching the actors' arms extend all the way out to their perfectly placed fingertips, seeing dancers of all genders simply float off of the stage with every jump and switch in footing was absolutely enchanting. One such dancer, Meghan Coyle '20, recalls the complex steps it took to achieve this level of apparent effortlessness and ease.

"From the beginning of the rehearsal process, we have been working on choreography with Karen [Dearborn]," Coyle said. "The dances were the first things we did! There's a lot of dance in the show, even for roles outside of the dance ensemble. Many narratives in the scenes are told with dance. The original production of Brigadoon was actually performed by a professional ballet company. I really love what Karen did — her choreography is gorgeous and really it complements the music of the show."

Complements and supplements: in the moments where ballet takes center stage, I was truly transported by the magic of Brigadoon to my own little island in the middle of Empie where the show was just between me and those impeccably synchronized, melodic dance moves.

Around the intense, highly focused periods of *Brigadoon* rehearsal, though, there was a sense of mutual respect for all those involved with every aspect of the production, as well as an all-important aura of lightness and fun. Despite running scenes multiple times, actors still found energy whilst waiting for technical issues to be solved, voguing and doing the jig right where they stood on the mountainous crags of the Scottish Highlands. Perhaps this is what *Brigadoon* is all about – finding a way to bridge the gap between real and not, between somber and fanciful, without giving up that all-important spark of hope.

Brigadoon opens on Friday, Oct. 26. Get your tickets online, at the box office, or by calling 484-664-3333 – you definitely do not want to miss this time-honored adventure when it hits the Empie stage.



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Artist of the Week: Shan Jameson ‘19

By Alana Noehrenberg
Staff Writer

Shan Jameson ‘19, a Media and Communication major and Art Studio minor, is busy inside and outside the classroom. She is a member of Alpha Chi Omega (a Panhellenic delegate last year), is an officer in class council, and serves on the alumni board. When asked about her artistic style, Jameson replied, “My favorite medium is acrylic and then having objects in it, like cardboard, wire and reusable objects — mixed media.” Not surprisingly, she loved taking the course Painting II, which allowed her to be very creative.

Art has had a strong impact on Jameson’s life. “I have a learning disability,” she stated, “I have dyslexia. I’ve always struggled with English and math and the normal classes that everyone else breezes through. But I’d always have art class twice a week in elementary school, and that was my favorite class because I didn’t have to think critically about ‘What does this sentence mean?’ or ‘What does this math problem equal?’ Art allowed me to sort of escape the real world of English and math. Now art helps me to present what my brain is thinking.”

Jameson’s learning disability has impacted her CUE (Culminating Undergraduate Experience) thesis in a positive way. “If you know me, my brain is everywhere — we could be talking about something, and I will go off track and start talking about something that has nothing to do ... [with] what we were originally talking about. I think with painting, and with art, I use it in my splatter paint and abstract artwork — that’s a representation of how my brain is. Art has allowed me to express myself and show people how my brain is inside,” she explained.

> **“I guess I relate to him because he had dyslexia but was able to think outside the box when it came to his learning disability.”**

Jameson’s favorite artist when she was younger was Jackson Pollock. “But, now that I’ve gotten older and learned more about art and artists, I really like this one artist, Robert Rauschenberg. His work is abstract and he put objects in his work,” she said. Although Jameson has always done similar mixed media work, she confided that Rauschenberg has been an inspiration for her because of their shared challenge: “I guess I relate to him because he had dyslexia but was able to think outside the box when it came to his learning disability. I think that I’ve had to do that too, to think ‘What do I have to do to achieve this goal, how do I work around the learning issue?’” Jameson said that Rauschenberg has helped her define what she wants her thesis to be.

Even though she is not majoring in art, Jameson is currently taking the Art Studio CUE course, which is typically only open to majors. “It’s a two semester class,” Jameson explained. “The first semester, you work on your portfolio, do critiques within the class, and work on what your thesis is going to be. Next semester will be presenting your work in a gallery and learning about that process.” As Jameson had decided she was going to minor; not major in art, she had to contact the department chair to see if she could take the course. She was told that she could apply to be in the CUE, so she sent in a digital portfolio and ended up getting into the class.

Alana Noehrenberg / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Shan Jameson ‘19 presents her artwork—a dive into her own, personal experience.

Even when Jameson is not painting, she is creative. “I’m the intern for the Career Center; I work with their social media. I work with Adobe, Photoshop and Illustrator to make content for them,” Jameson said. “Creating flashy, artsy types of things on social media will catch people’s eye, and they’ll be more likely to look at it.” She elaborated upon this by saying, “I want to go into a creative field within the job industry, so knowing Photoshop is super helpful and great to have on my resumé. I thought about going into graphic design work or the marketing world and combining them somehow. My ultimate goal is to be a creative director, but that’s a long ways away.”

If you would like to check out more of Jameson’s work, she has created an Instagram solely dedicated to her art: @shanjameson-art.

A blast from the past:

Muhlenberg alum presents “*Nosferatu*, A Symphony of Horror”

By Arielle Moss
Staff Writer

A spooky treat arrived just ten days before Halloween: Muhlenberg College alum Bryson Kemp, from the class of 2016, provided piano accompaniment to F.W. Murnau’s 1922 silent horror film classic *Nosferatu*. The free event, which was open to the public, took place on the evening of Sunday, Oct. 21, in the recital hall in the Center of the Arts and was sponsored by the Film Studies and Music departments.

Nosferatu is a retelling of the Dracula story. It is so close to the original story that the widow of Bram Stoker, the author of the 1897 horror novel *Dracula*, tried to have the film banned for copyright violation. The event provided the audience a rare opportunity to experience silent films similar to how they were experienced back in the day with a live musical soundtrack.

For me, the silent film appeared to be more funny than creepy, perhaps because of the less technologically advanced film effects. Although silent films can be hard to understand at times, Kemp’s accompaniment expressed the story. By listening to the change in pitch in the music, it was clear which parts were meant to be scary and which were happier.

Marc Szechter ‘22, an audience member, said that he found it especially interesting when Kemp plucked the strings of the piano to enhance the music.

“I loved the part near the end where the shot jumped from the sunrise to Knock in the psychiatric ward, as it symbolizes the juxtaposition between the outside world and the horror of the story. The dissonant music fit the mood of the film very well. There were some moments when the pitches of the piano accurately mimicked a noise that would have happened in the film,” said Szechter. “I had seen a few Charlie Chaplin movies, but I had not seen a silent film for quite some time, and it was really cool watching and listening to a live accompanist.”

During his time at Muhlenberg, Kemp double majored in Film and Music and studied as a master class student. Recently, he applied to perform at the Pordenone Silent Film Festival in Italy, which is the largest festival of its kind. He has attended the festival in the past, and the first time he went, he received contact information from some of the films’ composers.

Kemp and his siblings all grew up playing the piano. “I think it’s really fun to translate your feelings into the keys, and I love playing the piano,” said Kemp.

Although Kemp and his three older sisters all took piano lessons, Kemp did not know how to read music very well.

“I play by ear—it was really bad as I can’t read music very well, but my passion is doing it [playing the piano] every week. You know, I am a film composer, so I am making a career out of it,” said Kemp.

Kemp said that he chose *Nosferatu* for his performance because it is almost Halloween and the creepy film is perfect for the occasion. Dr. Paul McEwan, professor in the Film Studies department, recommended that Kemp should accompany this film.

“[*Nosferatu*] is one of the iconic scary films and there are a lot of influences from it,” said Kemp.

Kemp’s favorite part about accompanying silent films is that it requires improvisation.

Kemp explained that the hardest silent film genre to accompany is comedy and he was thankful that the movie he chose was horror. Nonetheless, Kemp had to watch the movie several times to get the scenes down cold and to have a good knowledge of the order of the scenes.

As someone who has very little experience watching silent films, it was very interesting to have had the opportunity to watch it just like people did many years ago. It felt like going back to a time before audio systems.

“I just love translating emotions through the keys and expressing yourself through the music,” said Kemp.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

An epidemic of ignorance

Flu shots, vaccines, and the "anti-vaxx" agenda

Editorial

It's just around the corner. With the leaves changing, a cool breeze finally weaving its way between suede boots on academic row, students sporting hats and scarves, the campus is preparation for this time of year: Flu season.

The first death of the 2018-19 influenza season has already been recorded in Connecticut, with twenty two others hospitalized by the virus.

The flu is sure to get a lot of press, especially after its deadly trail from the 2017-18 season, which lasted unusually long. "The 2017-18 season was the first season to be classified as a high severity across all age groups," according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

For some, this flu season will be like every other we have survived: no vaccine, no problem. Some may go the whole winter without feeling any trace of sickness. Some may get the flu, but had already accepted they would contract it either way. Unfortunately, some of these people will pass the flu along to community members who have reduced protection against the illness, either due to lack of access to adequate healthcare or to compromised immunity.

With each passing flu season, it seems that the number of individuals succumbing to the virus only increases. With today′s advances in medicine, one would expect this statistic to be on the decline. However, what was once a small group of fringe conspiracists has devolved into a full-blown movement: parents against vaccinations, commonly referred to as ″anti-vaxx.″

Perhaps the most notable impact of this movement is the resurgence of mumps in the United States. As a country, we came so close to eradicating the mumps, only for multiple outbreaks to occur in the past couple of years. In an article published by CNN in March of 2018, a claim was made explaining how a large proponent of the mumps virus' rebound was due to parents choosing not to vaccinate their children because "the illness didn't seem to exist anymore."

Immunity against mumps is conferred by the MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine, which has been speculated by anti-vaccinators as a cause of autism, despite scientific reports desperately echoing over and over that there is no correlation between autism and vaccines.

This ignorance is an epidemic in and of itself, leaving no field of expertise untouched.

Most alarming is the ignorance (or is it indifference?) towards the global climate crisis. Though research has reflected time and time again that the climate is changing in a fashion that is harmful to the earth and its inhabitants there has never been a nationwide effort, let alone a common consensus, among Americans that climate change is an immediate threat to our futures. We Americans are headstrong, but at what point does gut instinct outweigh the knowledge, research, and scholarship of thousands upon thousands of scientists who are educated in their respective fields and considered experts?

Perhaps this ego is a reflection of society expressing the same overconfidence we see at a political level. Even President Trump was quoted by the Associated Press boasting his ″natural instinct for science.″

Whether you trust in that instinct or not, science is not an instinctual field. At the heart of all science is experimentation: carefully designing a procedure to test a hypothesis. Most critical is that many, if not most, of these experiments fail. And it is through these failures that medicine has come across some of its most vital discoveries. Results are not forced. They are noted. And experts are experienced enough to offer extremely valuable opinions in their field, usually for the benefit of us all.

Simply put, in all realms of life sometimes ego must make way for the findings of trained and educated science. Going with our gut may satisfy ourselves, and individuals may even escape the clenched teeth of health scares unscathed. Considering the findings of science helps ourselves, our loved ones, and our communities.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

Why study abroad in Washington DC?

Living in the center of our political climate

By Melissa Reph
News Editor

"I think sometimes we take for granted the experiences we can get in America," Maye-gan Brown '20, said as she made herself dinner in her apartment in Washington D.C.

Brown is one of five students currently spending their fall interning and taking classes with the Lutheran College Washington Semester (LCWS). In light of recent protests in Washington and the upcoming midterm elections it seemed like a good time to talk to some of these students about their life in D.C.

> **"This was actually a very eye-opening experience for me, I realized that I do want to politics but if I do politics I'll do it more on a local level."**

"Instead of going abroad I wanted to know what life would be like just in a different city," Brown explained about her decision to come to D.C.,"because there's an entirely different culture here than it is in Philly, where I live, so I think it was important for me to just get out of what I knew to be familiar."

"I love Washington D.C. and I'm flirting with the idea of working for the federal government after I graduate, so it seemed like a good opportunity," Ali Watson '20, said on her choice. "I think culturally and just speaking generally there's just a lot more going on. Even if you're not interested in politics there's still a lot to do and see in D.C. both culturally and professionally."

For Ariana Lopez '20, the political aspects of D.C. weren't really a factor. "Especially if you're a dance or theater major there's this pressure, if you want to go abroad you have to go to Arezzo and I was looking for something a little bit different because I wasn't really interested in going 'abroad' abroad but I still wanted an off-campus experience."

Lopez learned about LCWS through her work on campus with the Global Education Office. "Dr. Kish-Goodling raves about LCWS and she told me that it's not just for poli sci majors or econ majors, there's more than just politics in D.C."

Proving that D.C. does not revolve completely around politics, Lopez is currently interning with Dance/USA, which she explained is "a national service organization for professional dance." They provide resources for dance groups and individuals such as research, advocacy and preservation. Lopez is a programs intern and spends her days helping to organize the annual conference that Dance/USA will be hosting next summer.

However, for a lot of people who work in D.C. politics is their focus. "Government-wise, this is where it happens," said Watson. Brown and Watson are both working as interns on Capitol Hill, with Brown in the House with Congressman Dwight Evans of Pennsylvania and Watson in the Senate with Senator Maria Cantwell of Washington.

While not the only intern in the senator's office, Watson is the only press intern. "I work with what is called Press Clips ... when you see that highlight reel on tv, or where ever, that was probably compiled by an intern or a low level staffer. So Press Clips is basically a memo that is sent out to the office and to the senator to basically say 'here's where the senator's been mentioned.'"

> **"There's a lot of potential for change and if you don't vote you can't complain. That's all I can say."**

"As an intern I answer phones, attend briefings, hearings, write-up memos, do Capitol tours if necessary," Brown explained, showing the look she gets of the day-to-day operations of the federal government. "This was actually a very eye-opening experience for me, I realized that I do want to politics but if I do politics I'll do it more on a local level."

"I work where everything's happening but it's almost as if nothing touches us," Brown said of the recent protests in response to the Kavanaugh hearings and confirmation. "Because

SEE WASHINGTON PAGE 9

The responsibility of a writer

By Michelle Rajan
Contributing Writer

A few weeks ago, I wrote an article about the Nike protest. If you don't remember what the protest was about, that's great. It's finally been phased out of the news cycle almost completely. But when I wrote my piece on it, Twitter was still relatively abuzz with images of flaming Nike sneakers as a show of opposition to the brand's affiliation with Colin Kaepernick. The last sentence of my op-ed article read, "So if you're thinking about giving away some women's training tights, specifically the small, maroon Nike Pro HyperWarm pair... just do it."

I gave a copy of The Weekly to one of my best friends, urging her to glance at the Op-Ed section. She scanned the page, her eyes glancing at my words, then put the paper away. I expected a chuckle or just some acknowledgement of how I'd mastered the art of seeming as though I was on the side of the ignorant while ridiculing them along the way.

Because after all, my article was satire.

Her eyebrows were knit in confusion, though. After reading, she was under the impression that I rejected Kaepernick's ideologies and supported the Nike protest.

Let me be clear: I have nothing but the utmost respect for Colin Kaepernick and I stand in solidarity with the black community. You won't find the article on The Weekly's website because if my intentions weren't clear to a close friend, then I couldn't imagine what it would mean to those that know me as nothing more than the name printed below the article's headline.

It wasn't until Ben Lerner, author of *10:04*, visited Muhlenberg as part of the Living Writers series did I realize how it's not the reader's responsibility to wed a writer's name to the writing — it's the author's.

While reading *10:04* for class, it was impossible to get through a page without wondering "Does this guy think he's Hemingway?" But then I'd have to apologize to Hemingway for even suggesting there was any similarity because Lerner's work also dealt out lengthy prose but his description teemed with imposition as opposed to observation and his sentences were joined with punctuation of all kinds rather than Hemingway's iconic noncommittal "and."

As a student in the Living Writers class, I was required to write three questions in preparation for Ben Lerner's visit to campus. Each one was basically a variation of "What were you thinking?"

But by the time Lerner finished his public reading, I found myself scrambling to fish out my copy of *10:04* from my backpack for him to sign. And when I went up to him, the first words out of my mouth were: I absolutely loved your book.

What?

You see, the whole purpose of Ben Lerner's book was to exemplify the labyrinth that is a person's stream of consciousness. But was it my fault that I missed the point? I'm still trying to figure that out. It helped me realize, though, that writing can be read from a myriad of lenses, each layered with an experience unbeknownst to the person sitting next to you. And while it may seem like too high of a standard to expect a writer to grasp that concept and create art that can handle such forces, I'm here to say that it's not.

After all, it's what I hope to do with my own writing from now on.

Thinking about what you can't see

Reflecting on Mental Health Awareness Day

By Brooke Greenberg
Staff Writer

According to the National Alliance for Mental Illness, one in four college students between the ages of 18 and 24 have a diagnosed mental illness. With the ever-increasing and constant demands of society to look, act and present young adults in a way that portrays themselves as perfection, there no surprise that there is an increase in the demands, creating consequences in young adults.

Additionally, the presence of social media and the constant connection to almost anyone at any time creates a flow of self-doubt and comparison, by looking at people's "picture perfect" life, based on places they have traveled, people they have seen, and different organizations they are involved in. I'm not going to lie, it is hard always being your true self in constant comparison to someone else's "picture perfect snapshot" that could include exotic vacations or expensive material items that they might showcase in an Instagram picture or a Facebook status.

This pressure and self-doubt does not take a break, especially for those dealing with mental illness. However World Mental Health Awareness Day was celebrated all around the world on Oct. 10. People used social media to share their stories of mental illness, and even stories of having to spend time in a mental health facility.

Even celebrities including Sophia Bush, who talked about her experience with what she calls her "badass therapist," and how meditation has greatly improved her mental health. Anna Camp also posted on Instagram, shedding a more personal light on issues they have faced. Muhlenberg students who are both outspoken and more reserved about mental illness took to social media to share personal stories and things they have experienced.

Organizations like "I Don't Mind," a program with a mission to encourage people to speak their minds and erase the stigma about mental illness by wearing t-shirts and apparel, are becoming more prominent in society. It is almost the norm to be open about mental illnesses, and quite frankly, it is a sign of the times becoming more and more accepting.

You see people wearing outfits and t-shirts that say "erase the stigma" or "mental health matters" in favor of mental health awareness. You see laptop stickers supporting brain health and molecules of serotonin representing mental health awareness. You see celebrities speaking the truth about their illnesses and friends close to home at Muhlenberg sharing their stories of triumph and courage.

It is important to remember that World Mental Health Day is not just for people suffering from a condition, that day is every day. So, as Muhlenberg students, that means to be kind to everyone and cognizant of the people around you. It could be your roommate, your boyfriend, your girlfriend, best friend, enemy, professor, Uber driver, etc.

Be kind, because everyone you know is fighting an invisible battle you know nothing about, and even just your presence could be the light in someone's darkness.

World Mental Illness Awareness Day is not a day that just is recognized on Oct. 10, but should be recognized as a ongoing action every day.

FROM **WASHINGTON** PAGE 8

I work on the House side and everything has been happening on the Senate side it just feels like I'm watching it on tv like everyone else." Brown did say that with the midterm elections she thinks that the protests might increase. "People are at a point where they're tired and I think the difference between this administration compared to others is this administration has pretty much attacked every single group of people... So I definitely think people are going to be putting more pressure on their representatives and their senators to represent them truly."

"My first day of work in the Hart Building was also the day of the mass of protestors of the Kavanaugh hearing," Watson said. "In a time of extreme polarization there's no way that couldn't effect day-to-day life, even just on small scales like being an intern... It's my understanding by what I've been told and what I experienced that it's a different time than what it was a few years ago, even just a couple years ago."

"I remember always joking about meteorologists and saying that they're always throwing a dart on a dartboard blindfolded and that was whatever the weather was and that's kind of what it feels like where we are now with the polls," Watson said in reference to the upcoming midterm elections. "Come November I don't think there's going to be as drastic of a change as the left is calling for but I also think that there's definitely a feeling of being unsettled that I don't think that the right has fully grasped."

Lopez said that even those who work outside the government aren't immune to everything that has been happening lately in the political sphere. "Even though we're a non-profit dance organization... D.C. is such a political town, whatever you do is just going to end up seeping its way through the work you do."

"This is going to be a really contentious election," Lopez said of Tuesday's midterms. "There's a lot of potential for change and if you don't vote you can't complain. That's all I can say."

"Go out and vote," Watson said. "My advice threefold is: vote, vote, vote. I think that if you have any interest at all, not just in politics, but just the ways in which you interact with your government that you may not even think about... I think that this administration, with all of the attention and scrutiny, has made us closely examine how our government is theoretically supposed to operate versus how it actually does on a daily basis and if you have any thoughts or opinions on how it's been going or how it's supposed to go, now really is a turning point. And I know that sounds melodramatic or very threatening but it really is a vote for this administration or not for this administration no matter how you look at it. Unfortunately, I don't really want to buy into this whole notion that America is too polarized but in fairness we kind of are. I think that we can't really do anything next until we see what happens in November."

"You not getting out to vote is someone saying 'ok, you don't want to vote, I'm choosing for you' because whether you vote or not you're technically voting," Brown said as a final piece of advice.

Melissa Reph / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Students studying in the city live only minutes away from the United States Supreme Court building.

Women's soccer still in playoff hunt

The Lady Mules must win at least two more matches to keep playoff hopes alive

By Noah Sellinger
Contributing Writer

Currently sitting at 6-6-2 the women's soccer team looks to end the season strong and give themselves a shot to make the playoffs.

The Mules started off their week traveling to Union, New Jersey to take on Kean College and won in a tight 1-0 contest. The shutout represented their seventh of the season and extends Muhlenberg's defensive dominance to holding opponents to just nine goals in the last 13 games. Casarah Morales '20 scored her team-leading fifth goal of the season in the thirteenth minute and that was all the team needed to separate themselves and come away with the win.

Coming off a road victory, the Mules were looking to keep the momentum on their home field against Centennial Conference rival McDaniel. The Green Terror started off the game strong, scoring a goal in the sixteenth minute. However, that only ignited Muhlenberg's offense as they were able to score seconds later when Danni Steigerwald '20 scored her fifth goal of the season, tying Morales for leaders amongst the team. Unfortunately McDaniel was not done scoring and tallied three goals in the second half to put the game out of reach and seal it 4-1. Despite the setback the night ended on a positive note with Meghan MacAskill '19, Makenzie O'Brien '19 and Sarah Theurer '19, all getting honored as seniors. "It definitely wasn't the result we were looking for but we are all still so happy for the seniors and can't wait to finish out the season strong and hopefully have a chance at postseason," said Morales.

Looking ahead, the squad has two big conference games against Swarthmore and Washington College. Taking down Swarthmore, who currently sits at second in the Centennial Conference standings would be a huge win and confidence booster for the Mules as the season winds down. With Washington College sitting below Muhlenberg in the standings the Mules will look to pick up a win to close out their regular season.

At this point of the season Morales and Steigerwald are the goal scoring leaders for the team with five a piece, while O'Brien leads the team in assists with four, and Libby Juliano '20 is second in the Centennial Conference in saves (69) and save percentage (.852). O'Brien is also on the conference leaderboard with four assists, tied for 6th best in the conference.

Juliano coming off being named Centennial Conference defensive player of the week, and has been rock solid in goal all year for the Mules; keeping them in games and playoff contention all season.

The Mules will take on Washington for their final regular season on Oct. 27.

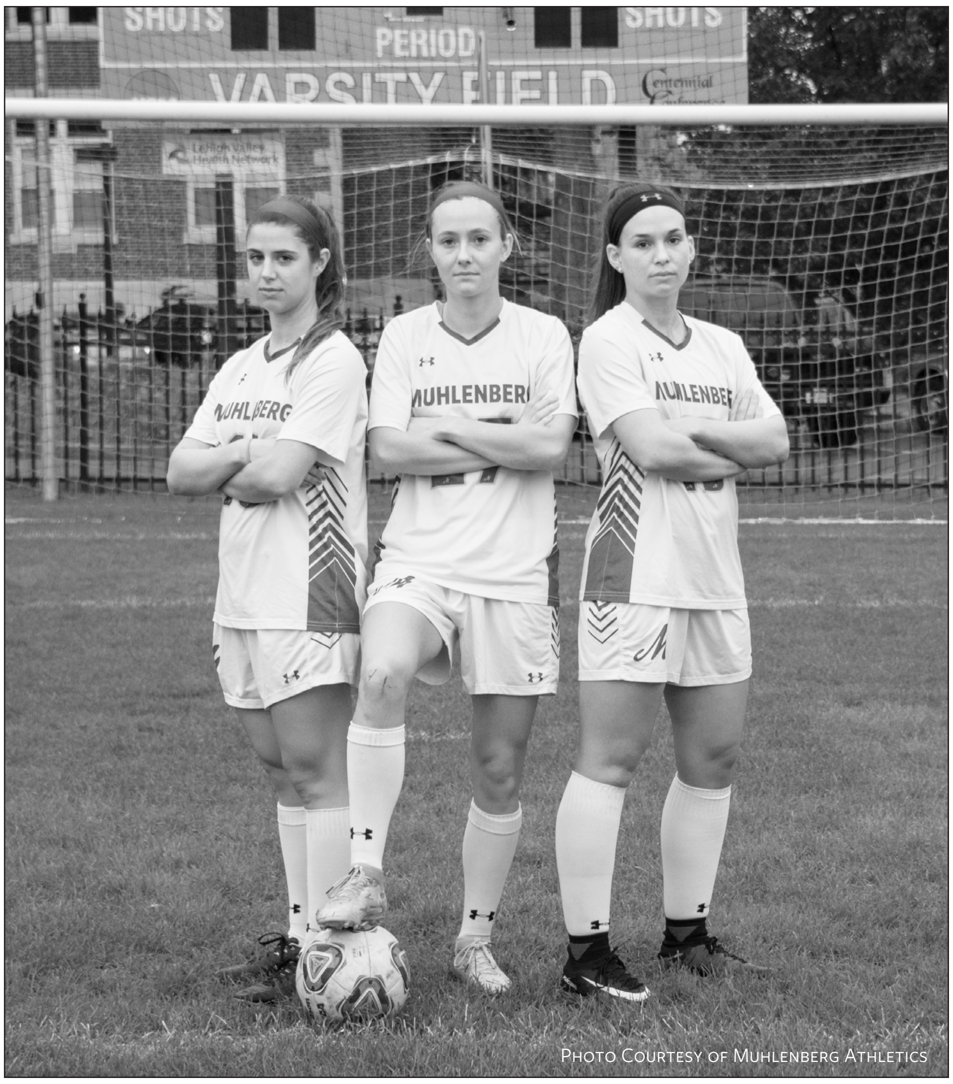


Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

A playoff birth would be the first for this year's seniors (pictured left to right: Meghan MacAskill, Makenzie O'Brien, and Sarah Theurer).

FROM **FOOTBALL** PAGE 10

ness and many corporations have bought in as well to provide products that our players can wear to show their support for those who have and continue to battle breast cancer. Football is a male dominated sport and anytime we can show appreciation for women and the battles that they go though we will continue to do so."

> **"Coach emphasizes that we need to work hard physically and mentally during the week and our reward will be wins on Saturdays."**

Wide receiver Ryan Curtiss, '20, had another productive game with 4 receptions for 46 yards and a touchdown. In addition to his continued dominance on the field, he elaborated the importance of representing the Muhlenberg football program in support of such an important cause.

"Playing and supporting Breast Cancer Awareness is an awesome thing to be a part of," said Curtiss. "To me it is very important because I have family who have had breast cancer and I know people who currently have breast cancer. I go on the field with pink socks and a pink towel to support them in the fight against cancer and indirectly bring them for the fight against each team we play in October. I fully support the fight against breast cancer and always look to help in any way I can."

In this pink-out week, the Mules added another win to their record to continue their undefeated start. It is the team's first 7-0 start to begin the season since 2008. The team's current winning streak of 10 games, which includes the last three games of the 2017 season, is actively the fourth longest in all of Division III football.

Next on the Mules schedule is the annually anticipated rival against Johns Hopkins University. This year's contest, which has the Mules traveling south to Baltimore, is an opportunity for the team to clinch at least a tie for the Centennial Conference Championship. The game at Hopkins is also a homecoming for running back James Diggs, '21, who hails from Baltimore, Md.

"I just look forward to being able to go to compete with a group of guys that I feel are really special, " said the sophomore running back who ran for 68 yards in the win over McDaniel. "It′s going to be wonderful to be home and see friends and family at the game to support me but at the end of the day we have to complete our mission. That′s why we′re there and that′s all I will be focused on until the clock hits zero in the 4th quarter."

Although Hopkins has tended to be a challenge for the Mules, the team is not viewing this game another different than another scheduled matchup. Everyone on the roster, from the coaching staff to the players, is aiming to put in the same amount of hard work each day during the week to optimize their chances of playing well as a team, leading to a victory. Quarterback Michael Hnatkowsky, '21, echoed this sentiment that his coach has told his team all year.

"It comes down to our preparation week in and week out," said Hnatkowsky. "Coach emphasizes that we need to work hard physically and mentally during the week and our reward will be wins on Saturdays."

The Mules look to move to 8-0 on the season when they battle the Blue Jays, starting at 2:00 P.M. on Saturday in Baltimore, MD.

Max Kirin '20 is the Mule's top receiver.
Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

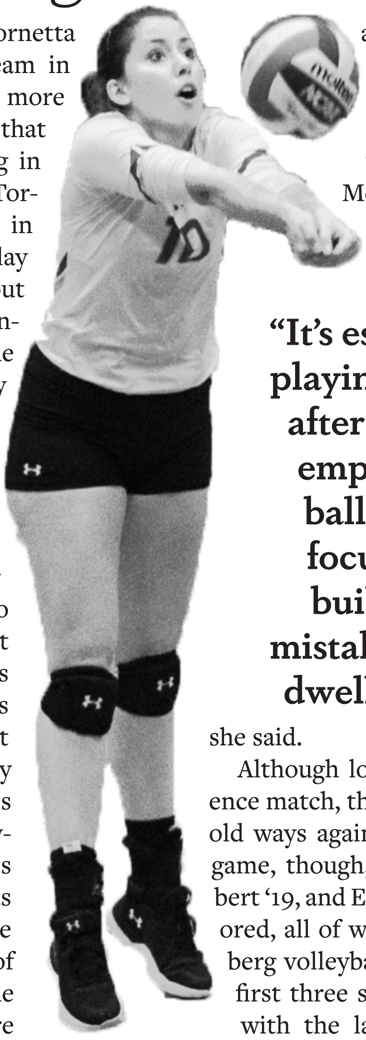
Veteran leadership guides volleyball to success

Milestones and records highlight seniors' final campaign

By Alex Blum
Staff Writer

With three more dominant victories under their belts against against Kean University, Moravian College, and Desales University on Sat. Oct 20, the ladies are gaining momentum at just the right time. The playoffs are fast approaching and it is crucial that they put on another strong showing to earn a playoff spot and show that they are a real contender to win it all. Such success and a potential playoff berth could not be attained without the leadership and mentorship of Kelly Tornetta '19, the former captain at Pope John Paul II High School and the fifth player in Muhlenberg Women's Volleyball history to accumulate 1,000 kills.

On Oct. 16, the Mules took on the Kean University Cougars for an out of conference matchup and although they may have fell in a tight first set 27-25, the ladies regrouped and were able to take out the Cougars in the next three sets straight. As usual, Tornetta could be found doing what she does best, ending the game with 17 kills and 2 aces. Moravian was next to take on the Mules and the squad displayed just how forceful they can be. This time the team dismantled their opponent, especially in the second set cruising by with the 25-8 victory. Again, Tornetta finished second on the team in kills with 10. "We have two more tough conference matches that will determine our seeding in the playoff seeding," said Tornetta. "I'm very confident in the team, and we have to play our game we will come out with wins. The key is to control everything on our side of the net, and play every point like it's the last."



After breezing through Moravian, the talented 15-5 Green Terror of McDaniel College came into Memorial Hall on senior day, for the first of two matches for the Mules that day. Following their success in the first set, the ladies would have trouble the rest of the way and ultimately give up the next three sets 25-17, 25-16, and 26-24. However, faced with moments such as these, Tornetta, as one of three seniors on the team, relayed a message of confidence, especially to the young freshmen. "There are always going to be losses that you get upset and frustrated about, but there are also losses you should be proud of. McDaniel didn't happen to go our way, but it was a tough game and we fought for every point," she said.

"It's especially tough playing immediately after a loss, but we emphasize a next ball mentality to focus ahead and build off of past mistakes rather than dwelling on them."

Although losing such a vital conference match, the Mules reverted to their old ways against DeSales. Prior to the game, though, Tornetta, Shannon Hubert '19, and Erica Schultz '19 were honored, all of whom are among Muhlenberg volleyball's all-time leaders. The first three sets were incredibly tight with the ladies claiming two. The final fourth set fell in favor of the squad and propelled them to yet another victory and a 18-7 record. "It's especially tough playing immediately after a loss, but we emphasize a next ball mentality to focus ahead and build off of past mistakes rather than dwelling on them," Tornetta said about getting back to winning ways. With 33 kills on the day, Tornetta moved into fourth all-time with 1,149 for her illustrious career, while Hubert with a grand total of 96 assists total for the day, moved into the top ten on the Centennial Conference list with 3,569. Hubert's 57 assists in the match was good enough for the school record.

Now, at 5-3 within the conference and the fifth seed, the Mules have two final games, both of which are against fellow CC members, Swarthmore and Washington College. As the regular season is finally concluding, the ladies are eager to make one last, final push for the playoffs. So long as there are veterans with the leadership ability and passion of Tornetta, the team looks poised for a deep and impressive playoff run which could certainly end with the Mules lifting the Centennial Conference championship trophy.

Tara Register '20 is third on the team in kills per set.

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Men's soccer wins under the lights on senior night

Schreer records eleventh career clean-sheet in shutout

By Jason Grant
Contributing Writer

Saturday was senior night for the men's soccer team, and they celebrated by sending their six seniors off with a conference win.

"My favorite part about being on this team was just being with all the guys. I wouldn't change it for the world."

The Mules defeated McDaniel, 2-0, to improve to 1-1 for the week, and 6-6-2 overall. The game was played under the lights at Varsity Field on a crisp night. The first goal was scored early by Noah Fulcomer '19, making his first career start, which sent the bleachers of parents into a craze. The crowd erupted again when the Mules sealed the victory by scoring a goal with two minutes remaining. The goal was scored by Pete Luther '20 when he broke away, beating the goalie with a laser into the back of the net. The whole team mobbed him as everyone, including goalie Jordan Schreer '19, celebrated with several Alpha Tau Omega fraternity brothers who had been supporting them loudly from the corner flag all night.

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Zach Cimiring '20 is part of a defense that has allowed only one goal per game throughout the team's 15 contests.

Schreer started his fortieth career game and recorded his eleventh shutout. Schreer and Fulcomer along with fellow seniors Kevin Irving '19, Shaun Bartholomew '19, Brian Heckman '19, and Kiefer Cundy '19 were all honored in a ceremony prior to the game.

The bleachers were packed from end to end and the crowd support from the Muhlenberg side was intense. The atmosphere felt like a playoff game and was a physical contest in the second half. McDaniel had a shot that looked like it was going to sneak under the top crossbar to tie the game, but Schreer made a leaping tip that knocked the ball above the post.

The Mules rebounded from losing a conference game earlier this week, as they lost to Dickinson, 3-0, on Wednesday at home. Dickinson (10-3-2), came into the game leading the Centennial Conference.

The Mules, following the loss, were nearly eliminated from playoff contention, and were not helped by wins from Franklin & Marshall, Haverford, and Johns Hopkins earlier in the day. The team will have to win the rest of its conference games and get help from other teams.

But, nobody was thinking about that after the shutout win on senior night. When the game ended, the team celebrated with the bench, then the entire team walked towards the bleachers to thank the supporting fans. Emotions were high as all of the seniors walked up to the stands and hugged their family members. Everybody at Varsity Field was elated, as teammates were hugging one another, and taking pictures.

Bartholomew was all smiles after the game, and had high praise for his team's performance, "We closed out the game really well. I'm really happy for Noah, he deserves it, " he said. "My favorite part about being on this team was just being with all the guys. I wouldn't change it for the world." Then, the seniors took a victorious post game picture with each other for the last time in their collegiate careers.

The men have two remaining games this season. Then the Mules play two-must win matches against tough conference opponents in Haverford and Washington College to close out the regular season.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Muhlenberg clinches CC Tournament berth

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

By Brandon Kossin
Staff Writer

The Muhlenberg women's field hockey team has been very impressive as of late, with a 6-2 in-conference record. This week, on Oct. 19 the women hosted McDaniel at Scotty Wood Stadium for senior night. The game was a double overtime thriller, finishing with a final 1-0 score in the Mules' favor. The only goal was scored by Steph Rydgren '19 and was assisted on by Morgan Tietz '21. This victory was crucial towards the Muhlenberg postseason hopes, as it officially clinched them a playoff berth in the Centennial Conference tournament.

After securing a playoff berth, goalie Jordan Segrave '19 was thrilled about the excitement surrounding the team now that they clinched a spot in the postseason. "It feels great. I am so proud of this team. From how we started to how we are finishing shows the immense progress we have made over the course of the season," Segrave said when asked how it felt to finally make the postseason. The Mules started off the season 0-4 in out of conference play, but since the start of conference play have been a totally different team. They have been completely focused on translating their talent and chemistry into wins.

"We have been focusing a lot on scoring, recovery, and communication. We have been dedicating ourselves to these aspect of the game in practice, which have definitely helped lead us to success," Segrave said when asked how the team has prepared for this moment during the season.

Lastly, Segrave was asked about the team's expectations going into the conference tournament. "We are in it to win it. The Centennial Conference is a tough conference no doubt, but it can be anyone's game on any given day. It's whatever team shows up to play that day. I think as a team we know what we need to do to win and we are ready to bring it," she said.

The Mules still have two conference games left of their season, before they will participate in the Centennial Conference tournament. They will host Swarthmore on Oct. 24th and travel to Washington College on Oct. 27th. It is an exciting time to watch a team that seems to be firing on all cylinders, and is poised to make a historic playoff run.

Mules football heads to Hopkins with a perfect record

Upcoming matchup with Johns Hopkins will heavily impact NCAA odds

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

James Diggs '21 has shown what he can do in the playoffs dating back to last year's ECAC bowl game.

By Alex Horowitz
Staff Writer

As they ran out on the field at Scotty Wood Stadium on Saturday afternoon, the Muhlenberg football team sported their usual home uniforms of cardinal with white Muhlenberg letters written across the chest. But on this third Saturday in October, in the midst of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Mules symbolically wore a new color scheme in their 42-18 win over McDaniel.

Fans and others at the stadium wore pink, the universally recognized color of breast cancer awareness. The game was yet another initiative by Muhlenberg College during the month of October to raise awareness for the disease. Off the field, the fans, student body included, showed tremendous support for the cause, while the on-field result was a tremendous success too.

Head Coach Nate Milne is in his first full season leading the Mules from the sidelines, and despite the team's success on the gridiron, he is very fortunate to be able to participate in Breast Cancer Awareness month to help others.

"Anytime our team can make a positive impact we will look to do so, " said Coach Milne. "The National Football League has done a great job in their campaign for Breast Cancer aware-

see **Football** page 10

Coming up this week in
SPORTS

Football
Muhlenberg
vs
Johns Hopkins
Saturday, Oct. 27 @ 2:00 pm
Baltimore, MD

Volleyball
Muhlenberg
vs
Washington
Saturday, Oct. 27 @1:00 pm
Chestertown, MD

Cross Country
Centennial Conference
Championships
Saturday, Oct. 27
Haverford, PA

Women's Soccer
Muhlenberg
vs
Washington
Saturday, Oct. 27 @4:00 pm
Chestertown, MD

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XC races in conference meet

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NEWS

Political Science Professor Ross Dardani discusses how the Supreme Court and upcoming Midterm Elections relate to college students and why they should vote.

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ARTS & CULTURE

Poet Danez Smith transformed Miller Forum into a dynamic site of both critique and celebration at their mesmerizing reading and Q&A on Oct. 24.

read more on 6

OP/ED

The Editorial Board reflects on what we can do amid never-ending tragedies, focusing on the importance of organizing and being an ally.

read more on 7

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

SPORTS

Field hockey returns to the CC playoffs after not appearing in 2017. Previously the Mules reached the playoffs in four straight seasons.

read more on 11

Family Weekend Guide

Find the map of campus, activity schedule, and more in the centerspread.

Two first-year courses replace health and wellness requirement

By Sydney Coplin
News Editor

With the Spring 2019 course schedule now available to view on Capstone and registration opening up for upperclassmen next week, some students may have noticed that PED 050: Principles of Fitness and Wellness is no longer being offered. With a handful of seniors still scrambling to complete their last minute general education requirements, the disappearance of PED 050 may be unsettling for those who have not yet taken it.

Nonetheless, the reason that Fitness and Wellness is no longer showing up on Capstone is due to the fact that it has been replaced by a brand new requirement known as Personal and Professional Development, or PPD.

According to the 2018-2019 course catalog:

"The Personal and Professional Development requirement provides students with an opportunity to develop their identity as students and members of the Muhlenberg campus community, supporting their success in college and beyond. Experiences that satisfy the Personal and Professional Development requirement focus on aspects of personal and career development, and aim to cultivate one's understanding of community responsibility, supports, and resources on campus."

The PPD requirement currently has two course options: PPD 050: Foundations of Student Success and PPD 060: Developing Your Professional Identity and Network. Both courses run at 50 minutes per class, meet twice a week, are offered at zero credits and graded as pass/fail, all of which were characteristics for the previous Fitness and Wellness course.

Foundations of Student Success debuted on campus for the first time this semester. There were 12 different sections all taught by a variety of faculty and staff across many different departments. According to the course description available on Capstone, "This course is designed to develop an understanding of one's holistic well-being. It will focus on personal development, career development, and understanding one's community responsibilities as well as supports and resources on campus."

"I myself have really enjoyed getting to know the students in my class and assisting them with their transition here" says Kathleen Mangold, associate director of residential education and one of the instructors for the course this semester.

Next semester there will also be 12 available sections with 20 seats in each. While the goal of the course, and the requirement in general, is for first-year students to enroll within their first semester at Muhlenberg, as of now upperclassmen may still register for it if they have not yet taken Principles of Fitness and Wellness.

"Right now the Foundations of Student Success course is kind of in a transition point," explains Ryan Smolko, associate director of the Career Center. "So Fitness and Wellness does not exist, but there are still upperclassmen that are in it. Eventually it will be strictly underclassmen, everybody their first semester is going to take one or the other."

The other class that Smolko is referencing, and the one that he is primarily affiliated with, is Developing Your Professional

see **PPD** page 3

Self-audit improves handling of food allergies

By Laura Schwarz
Staff Writer

On Oct. 5, before Fall Break, Muhlenberg Dining Services announced that they would be conducting a 'self-audit' of all foods containing peanuts and tree nuts. Over the course of this audit, dining services removed all food items containing those allergens from the Wood Dining Commons as well as from the General's Quarters, Mule Express, LSC Café and Java Joe.

After assessing each item and its ingredients, the removed foods were returned to the menu on an item-by-item basis. This audit comes in response to a mislabeling incident that led to a student experiencing an allergic reaction.

"Approximately 15 million people in the United States have food allergies," according to Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE). With food allergies affecting so many people across the country, it is crucial that food services at Muhlenberg

see **Allergies** page 3

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

Monday, October 22
Disabled vehicle - 6:50 p.m.
In Martin Luther lot there was a report to jump start a vehicle. Campus Safety successfully started the vehicle.

Injured student - 8:17 p.m.
On Tilghman Street there was a report of an injured student. Muhlenberg and Allentown EMS responded and the individual was transported to the hospital.

Tuesday, October 23
Plumbing problem - 12:58 a.m.
On Chew Street there was a report of a plumbing problem. Plant Operations was notified to respond.

Unauthorized persons - 3:00 p.m.
In Martin Luther there was a report of suspicious persons. Individuals were identified and spoken to. They left the area and there was no further incident.

Disabled vehicle - 5:20 p.m.
On Gordon Street there was a report to jump start a vehicle. Campus Safety successfully started the vehicle.

Wednesday, October 24
Parking violation - 9:58 a.m.
On Back Drive there was a report of a vehicle illegally parked with parking violations. The vehicle was booted by Campus Safety, and the owner was later identified and the boot removed.

Fire alarm - 11:48 a.m.
In Walz Hall there was a report of a fire alarm from construction in the work area. The system was silenced and reset.

Injured student - 9:24 p.m.
In the Field House there was a report of an injured student. Muhlenberg EMS responded and the individual was transported to the hospital.

Thursday, October 25
Vehicle lockout - 2:43 p.m.
In Prosser lot there was a report of keys locked in a vehicle. Campus Safety successfully retrieved the keys.

Fire alarm - 10:40 p.m.
In Walz Hall, there was a report of a fire alarm. Upon arrival, no cause could be found. The system was silenced and reset.

Friday, October 26
Hit & run - 10:24 a.m.
On Front Drive there was a report of a hit and run to a vehicle causing damage to the bumper. Investigation to continue.

Traffic accident - 3:02 p.m.
On Front Drive, there was a report of a minor motor vehicle accident causing damage to bumper. Individuals exchanged information and there was no further incident.

Saturday, October 27
Theft - 11:30 a.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of money stolen. Investigation to continue.

Fire alarm - 8:27 p.m.
In Memorial Hall Gym, there was a report of a fire alarm. Upon arrival, no cause could be found. The system was silenced and reset.

Sunday, October 28
Sick student - 2:40 a.m.
In South Hall , there was a report of a sick student. Allentown EMS responded and the individual was transported to the hospital.

Sick student - 2:42 a.m.
In The Courts, there was a report of a sick student. Muhlenberg EMS responded but the student refused further treatment or transport.

Welfare check - 6:25 p.m.
In Walz Hall there was a report to locate a student. Contact was made with no further incident.

-"I need a job this year, but don't know where to look!"
-"I didn't know that you could get free swipes/food for your time worked!"
-"I really need a job to have some extra spending money!"
Dining Services is Now Hiring &
Catering to Your Needs!
With any questions or concerns, you can reach us at diningcomments@muhlenberg.edu
Muhlenberg College Dining

Beyond the bins

The complexities of recycling on campus

By Sarah Dolan
Contributing Writer

Muhlenberg has always made sustainability a priority on this campus, from the way we use our energy to how we dispose our trash. However, further examination of our trash and recycling systems, in conjunction with observation of student recycling habits, raises the question of whether or not the college is as environmentally friendly as it may appear.

Campus trash and recycling are sent to two different facilities. Recyclables are retrieved by a single stream recycling company, while garbage is picked up by Sustainable Waste Solutions (SWS) and is burned to become fuel in Conshohocken, PA. With this system, Muhlenberg claims that the college's main campus is now landfill-free. But is it?

Upon brief observation of students disposing of their trash in General's Quarters (GQ), it is clear that many members of the Muhlenberg community have been using the dual recycling and trash bins incorrectly. They recycle single-use plastic items without first cleaning them out — contaminating the recycling bin with leftover hummus, pretzels and water, to name just a few of the items improperly disposed of.

Although the recycling and trash bins in GQ are clearly labeled with images of what belongs in the trash and what should be recycled, many students still throw their waste in the incorrect bin.

"The new recycling rule in America is, 'If in doubt, throw it out!'"

While some students have become more conscious of their disposing habits, others make it less of a priority. "I've always recycled, but I've become a lot more conscious within the past year of the way I'm actually recycling," says Tori Fuerst '19. "I now know that I need to rinse my recyclables out and there's different types of plastics that can and cannot be recycled."

"When I'm in GQ, and see the trash and recycling bins separated, I'll make the effort," says Angelica Bakhos '19. "But when I'm in my suite, it's this subconscious thing that I'm in my home and at my house, we throw everything in the same bin because my township doesn't require them to be separate."

With so much of the college's recycling being affected by contamination, recycling bins on campus may be doing more harm than good, according to Dieter Sheel of SWS.

"The load might be rejected at the recycling plant, costing the college a significant amount of money, or the container would be rejected on site and dumped as trash," says Sheel.

If students are not able to clean out their single-use plastic containers, they should simply throw them in the trash to avoid contamination.

"The new recycling rule in America is, 'If in doubt, throw it out!'," adds Sheel.

In order to combat this issue and help the college live up to their claim of being landfill-free, there are two options: either eliminate recycling on campus and send all waste to SWS, or work harder to educate students on proper recycling practices.

MUHLENBERG RECYCLES!
RECYCLE TODAY
FOR A BETTER TOMORROW
@MUHLENBERG_ENACT
#BERGVOTES
MUHLENBERG COLLEGE POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

Sydney Coplin / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Banners hanging in Parents Plaza encourage students to recycyle.

The Office of Sustainability and student organization EnAct, the Environmental Action Team, are working on the latter.

"The standards for required cleanliness of plastics have changed, and that's probably a good thing since it means that more plastics will get recycled," notes Kalyna Procyk, sustainability coordinator. "Sometimes they can be rinsed out, other times a quick wipe-down with a napkin will do. Educating students so they know this is a new part of the more stringent process will be important."

In order to push this education agenda, EnAct has plans in the works to capture student attention and spread the word about recycling.

"We plan to do tabling in the future and to work with dining and plant ops to change the signage so that it is more clear for students," says Mimi Salters '20, EnAct's president. "We also talk about what is and is not recyclable at meetings and new members are always welcome to learn more."

from **PPD** page 1

Identity and Network, which has actually been offered on campus since Fall 2016.

A change for this semester, however, is that for the first time the course is being taught inside the Career Center lab, which Smolko is particularly excited about due to how dynamic the space is.

"When I started here, one of the mandates that the Career Center was given was to think about if that course [Principles of Fitness and Wellness] was career-based, what would that look like, which is where the Professional Identity and Networking Course came from" says Smolko.

Smolko designed the Professional Identity and Networking course alongside Jenna Azar, co-director of the Intergroup Dialogue program here at Muhlenberg.

The course has a large focus on career exploration, where students work on developing their resumes, cover letters, complete interviews with each other and are also assigned to complete informational interviews with alumni. "We really work on those networking skills," says Smolko.

"Students that have done academically well in high school, that feel prepared for college, and need less of the study skills... tend to be the ones that apply to my course," says Smolko, noting how there is an application process involved in registering for the Developing Your Professional Identity and Network course option, which is not the case of Foundations of Student Success.

The application period for the networking class took place over the summer, so as of now all of the spots are filled for next semester.

"I want to make sure that students are doing it for the right reasons," adds Smolko, referencing the necessity for an application process. With that being said, there are plans to hopefully remove the need for an application for next year in order to encourage more students to enroll, according to Smolko.

While Smolko also notes that first-year students may be tempted to put off thinking about their post-graduation plans, the PPD networking course encourages them to start planning early.

"The sooner that you can kind of normalize that process of exploring, trying different things, the more and the better opportunities that comes your way," says Smolko. "Learn what you want to do and learn what you don't want to do."

from **Allergies** page 1

take these allergies into consideration.

Because college students have limited access to food off campus, the Wood Dining Commons and other on-campus eateries are central to many students' daily lives. While the brief removal of peanut butter or granola from the dining hall may have been an annoyance to students without allergies, for students with food allergies, knowing the ingredients in their foods is an everyday concern and the audit could be of great benefit to them.

John Pasquarello, general manager of dining services, and Jon Middleton, director of culinary operations, discussed their decision to conduct the self-audit and the changes that have come from it. They explained that the audit began strategically over Fall Break, when many students leave campus, so that the menu changes would not disturb the majority of customers.

Besides evaluating current menu items and ingredients during the audit, 50 of Dining Services' 180 employees underwent training by the outside company AllerTrain, who describes their course as "prepare[ing] dining staff to cater to students [with food allergies'] needs, teach them how to recognize symptoms of an allergic reaction and how to implement proper procedures in their dining hall that will help prevent these reactions from occurring."

Additionally, according to Pasquarello and Middleton, Dining Services plans to update their signage on individual items and on the overhead TV screens, as well as being more detailed in the disclosure of allergens. They have begun preparing products containing nuts at the end of the day, as well as strategically placing items with nuts away from other foods in an effort to prevent cross-contamination. An example of these changes is the re-introduction of the dining hall's much-loved granola, now kept in a closed container to prevent possible cross-contamination. They will also be reducing the overall use of nuts on their menu in general, as well as buying less baked goods with nuts from outside bakeries.

Despite these changes, many of their most popular baked goods, the homemade peanut butter and other nut toppings for oatmeal and salads, will remain on the menu. Although dining services have become more transparent about their ingredients, Pasquarello and Middleton encourage students with food allergies to contact them so that they can discuss what foods are safe for them to eat, and stress that students with food allergies must register their dietary needs with Disability Services.

A topic of concern for both Pasquarello and Middleton is the labelling of items bought from outside retailers. The student whose life-threatening reaction initially led to the audit had eaten a mislabeled baked good that did not disclose that the item contained nuts.

"I'd just like there to be little labels that say what ingredients are in it so I know when I get it," says the student, who prefers to remain anonymous.

In Dining Services' large operations, some details like labelling and ingredient disclosure may have fallen through the cracks; however, Pasquarello and Middleton stress that this is one of the many issues they have focused on during the audit.

Extra labeling, detailed ingredients and designated prep spaces, like those for customers with gluten allergies, are all important steps for improving many students' use of Muhlenberg's dining hall. Dining Services' self-audit demonstrates the necessary precautions being taken in order to maintain the safety and well-being of their customers.

Two students, two issues

Student journalists interview political science professors on hot-ticket issues in the upcoming midterm election

Gun culture in a split America

By Gabrielle Hondorp
Contributing Writer

Gun control has been a hot topic in politics for the past two decades. With both major political parties taking radically opposing sides, it becomes difficult to gather the truth without being influenced by a party.

On Sept. 13 in Miller Forum, Kristin Goss, a Political Science professor at Duke University, delved into some of the controversies, conspiracies and misconceptions enveloping the issue of gun control. Author and co-author of published works pertaining to gun control in America, she shared with the audience a wealth of information presenting sides in favor of both greater gun regulations and the National Rifle Association (NRA).

"What interested me about Goss's talk was how she was able to stay so neutral while diving into a topic that is usually polarizing," said Declan Walkush '20.

The talk began by giving a general background of gun control, explaining that it spawned from the Columbine Shooting of 1999. After the event, gun control was thrust into the spotlight by politicians, donors and "Moms Demand Action," a nonprofit group uniting mothers against gun violence. The federal government, however, failed to make changes. After the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary occurred, similar advances were taken, and bills were proposed by activist groups and politicians alike. Yet a bill remained unpassed. Goss argued, however, that although it may not appear to be so, a lot has changed outside of the national scene.

Goss focused initially on the change not in gun laws in our country, but gun culture. Counter to common belief, the number of gun owning households has actually decreased in recent years, and yet there has been a severe spike in domestic gun purchases. Goss claims that this is due to the change in gun culture, shifting from guns primarily being used for hunting to using guns for self protection, and data showed that people are now twice as likely to claim that they own a gun for protection. Statistics from the NRA also revealed this shift in mentality, as they switched from *The American Hunter* being their most popularly ordered magazine to *America's First Freedom*, demonstrating how gun ownership has morphed into something explicitly political.

Though the NRA is the wealthiest and largest of the gun advocates, they are not the group actively seeking legal changes, Goss explained. Instead, it is the more local and radical groups that are pushing for amendments to state gun laws; where the change is truly happening. The main laws that are changing are preemption (the ability for state and cities to regulate gun ownership), concealed carry laws (having a concealed weapon on body in public areas) and 'stand your ground' laws (the threatened individual is allowed to defend themselves with use of a gun), according to Goss.

Proponents of stricter gun control, however, are not going unnoticed. Although the NRA tops out at $420 million for financial capital and all gun control groups together show an unimpressive $95 milion, it is the rapidity of the growth of the advocacy groups that is telling. The activist groups also have a more overarching presence on social media than the NRA does, and they have taken to training and sometimes even paying victims of gun violence to serve as full time activists. Though the pro-gun groups are often recorded being more likely to contact public officials, the activists are more likely to contact about background checks which goes to show that although they may not appear to be as engaged, they are altogether more influential on a smaller scale, explained Goss.

It is not guns, however, that Goss seemed most concerned about. Instead, it is the severe and quickly widening gap between the Democratic and Republican parties, and their increasing homogeneity that displays the dangerous divide in our country. She claims that it begins to be difficult to separate the cause from the effect (Trump and sympathizers) and inconsistencies within a party, resulting in a greater population of more directly opposed individuals. It would seem that guns are only one of the many controversial issues that will not be resolved without a shift towards moderation and compromise.

What you need to know about the Supreme Court

A discussion with Professor Dardani

By Hannah Turner
Contributing Writer

With all of the buzz in the news surrounding the Supreme Court, and midterm elections right around the corner, Ross Dardani, a visiting assistant professor of political science at Muhlenberg, has the answers to questions that college students may be asking themselves about the Supreme Court in relation to the upcoming election.

According to Dardani, there are a few key areas in which the Supreme Court should matter to college students. These include long-term regulations (like consumer protection laws) and voting rights. Consumer protection laws protect us from purchasing things that are unsafe, and voting laws make sure that everyone has access and the ability to vote in all elections. These types of laws have an effect on all Americans, college students included.

A question that Dardani is constantly posing is in regard to the Supreme Court's legitimacy. Can the Supreme Court ever be completely non-partisan? Dardani's answer is that in order to function, it has to be non-partisan, but it often is not.

Historically, Dardani points out, the Supreme Court has been able to push and pull a little bit but it has not been as partisan as it appears to be today. The current court is composed of five conservative-leaning justices all appointed by Republican presidents, and four liberal-leaning justices, all appointed by Democratic presidents. This creates a natural divide, but the Supreme Court is expected to not always vote along party lines.

"[They're] supposed to be impervious to any type of bias, it's supposed to be rooted in reason," states Dardani, "but this is a myth." Of course, these justices are human, and humans have emotions and opinions that inform every aspect of life. Dardani explains that one of the big problems people have is that the Supreme Court seems to be partisan, but he states that the Supreme Court "transcends the political branches and is not supposed to be political."

The job of the Supreme Court is not to have partisan views on either side, but to see who has the better argument and to uphold the Constitution.

Another major controversy surrounding the Supreme Court is the idea of lifetime appointments. Dardani discussed how lifetime appointments are the only way to ensure that the justices are making decisions that are intended to uphold the Constitution. In short, they never have to worry that dissenting will prevent them from getting another job in the future, yet Dardani says that this is "inherently anti-democratic." While basically giving these (unelected) justices a lifetime job with virtually no consequences, Dardani explains that this is the only way the court can function: "That's the only way you can have true independence." The lifetime appointment law allows justices to vote in any way they see fit, party lines and potential consequences aside.

So, as a college student, what does this have to do with you? Dardani encourages everyone to go out and vote next Tuesday, as we are on the brink of party shifts in the House and Senate. Voting is the way in which students can voice their opinions on important issues. Dardani explains that one of the duties of the Supreme Court is to represent public opinion, and the best way to show your opinion is to vote. Dardani talks about how historically, the Supreme Court represents the public opinion because it has to.

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Public Relations

Professor Dardani discusses the importance of the Supreme Court.

"Every time that the Court has realized that it's diverging from public opinion, it's pulled back," says Dardani.

Now is the time for young people to show all branches of the government, even the ones that seem more detached like the Supreme Court, what really matters to us.

“Poems are sad. Poems are defeated. Poems are everything a human can be.”

-Danez Smith

MURDER UNDER THE BIG TOP

By Arielle Moss
Staff Writer

On the haunted evening of Saturday, Oct. 27, the Muhlenberg College Circus was back in town with a spooky twist. Witches, investigators and reanimated monsters gave goosebumps to a large audience eager to be spooked with circus entertainment. The performance and creativity presented for the price of two dollars per ticket was worth it, as it allowed the audience to experience the thrilling journey of a murder investigation.

Upon entering the Brown Dance Studio for the performance, the room was lit only by ominous orange lights. Halloween music entered the audience’s ears, causing chills to crawl down each person’s spine. Performers interacted with audience members as they entered and waited for the show to begin; they danced and attempted to scare them. The atmosphere was perfect for the weekend before Halloween.

“I have been to the Muhlenberg Circus before,” said Jenny Silber ‘20. “I′m always so blown away by what my peers can do, especially anything in the air because it always looks so cool and I have no idea how they do that. Overall it′s always a fun time and lets you forget about the outside world for a bit!”

The theme of last Saturday’s show was Halloween, and the performance began with the circus members dancing, followed by a juggler being murdered. Two clown-like performers wearing trench coats and speaking gibberish investigated the crime scene, which ended in the pair rolling the “dead” body off stage. Other acts in this one included three aerial acts (fabric/aerial silks, spansets and lyra/aerial hoop), contortion, hand balancing/canes, hula hoop, cyr wheel, clowning and juggling. Acrobatic witches, who seemed to resemble the three witches from “Macbeth”, made a brew that was supposed to bring the dead body back to life but ended up turning him into a monster like Frankenstein.The final act invited the whole audience to dance with the circus performers to Michael Jackson’s hit song “Thriller.”

Unlike traditional circuses, the audience here had to be on their feet and fully aware in order to be able to experience the entire show, as they were motioned to follow the performers all around the room in between acts, which spread to different surfaces of the room.

At the beginning of the fall semester, auditions are held for those interested in joining the circus. Each semester, the circus tries to have a performance while also doing a lot of community engagement.

To prepare for a performance, the group members attend rehearsals that are specific to their discipline as well as rehearsals with the entire circus ensemble each Friday. During these rehearsals, they build acts while also learning and practicing new skills. Sometimes, professional circus artists come to teach masterclasses.

Dancer and acrobat Elise Miwa ‘20 has been a member of the Muhlenberg College Circus since the first semester of her freshman year. She has been dancing since she was three years old and started taking tumbling classes through her dance studio when she was eight.

“I went to a circus summer camp for seven years during elementary and middle school, so when I saw VOD [the circus show from Spring 2016] when I came to visit Muhlenberg my senior year of high school, I was so excited that I could keep doing circus here at school,” said Miwa.

The Muhlenberg College Circus would not be possible without the guidance of its student leaders: President Shantell Cruz ‘19, Vice President Elena Nahrmann ‘19 and administrative assistant Arianna Caiola ‘20, along with their faculty advisor, dance department professor Noah Dach, who teaches aerial acrobatics and aerial composition.

“The circus is such a wonderful community and creative environment,” said Miwa. “I especially love that I have been able to not only continue to learn and grow as an acrobat but also improve in other areas of circus performance.”

Cole Geissler / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Preview of *Carmina Burana*

By Lauren D Mazur
Arts & Culture Editor

Based on a medieval text from the eleventh or twelfth century, “Carmina Burana” is a cantata by Carl Orff that was composed in the 1930s. This weekend, the Muhlenberg College Choir and Wind Ensemble will join in a combined performance of Orff’s masterpiece. Lead by Dr. Andrew Ardizzoia and Dr. Andrew Jackson, the two ensembles have been working for months to finally bring this work to fruition.

“[Orff] describes [“Carmina”] as a scenic cantata. So, it’s a large work for Orchestra-Chorus and vocal soloists,” said Ardizzoia.

The piece itself is large in text and structure, divided into many parts — up to 24.

“The version that we are doing is for wind ensemble and chorus. And we are only doing about half of it,” Ardizzoia explained.

The piece is performed generally in Latin with some varying texts in either Middle High German or Old French. Again, this piece is monstrous in size and complexity, which makes accomplishing such a production almost unbelievable.

“The texts are drawn from a manuscript of medieval poetry written in a mix of languages that were spoken at the time. So an older version of German … the forerunners of modern French, and then Latin as it would have been spoken in medieval Germany at the time,” said Ardizzoia. “The manuscript was discovered in the mid ninteenth century in a Bavarian monastery, and [it deals] with all of the same sorts of topics that we talk about today. Love … tavern life … one of the overarching things in “Carmina” is the idea of fortune, fate. You can be on top of the world one day and sort of cast asunder the next … we are all at the whim of this … personification of good and bad luck. [This] was key to the way medieval people thought about their lives: an allegorical figure in control of everything.”

Ardizzoia further explained this theme of fate as a driving force within the work, and how that could apply to the performance itself.

“To me, what’s interesting about that is that we tend to think of Europeans as being dominated by the church … that really their worldview is shaped by the Catholic church. [“Carmina”] shows that there is something outside of that,” he said. “Fate … the empress of the universe overseeing this great wheel that we’re all on. Sometimes we’re at the very top of the wheel and other times we’re sort of crushed by it. The very first movement [of Carmina] describes what that’s like. [This] is so important to Carl Orff’s understanding of the text that he bookends the entire piece with the exact same movements. So the first movement that you hear at the top of the work is also what closes the piece as a sort of framing device.”

Several students preparing to perform in the production of “Carmina” agreed with Ardizzoia’s statement, specifically expressing the music’s role in emphasizing and thoroughly reviving the text to another life.

“I play trumpet in the ensemble,” explained Laurel Mangelsdorf ‘22. “The trumpets are used a lot in the arrangement as a sort of melodic back-up to the woodwinds and for accentuation in some of the more forceful movements.”

Mangelsdorf continued to explain the importance of such a production: “This has never been done before, combining the choir and the wind ensemble, and I think it shows fantastic collaboration be-

see **Carmina** page IV

“I have left earth:” Danez Smith visits Muhlenberg

By Brooke Weber
Arts & Culture Editor

Photo Courtesey of Muhlenberg College Public Relations

Danez Smith, slam poet and National Book Award finalist, performed a section of their work from their book “Don’t Call Us Dead” to a packed Miller Forum.

“THIS PLACE IS ALIVE!” my notes shout gleefully at me. The words are scrawled out, barely legible. I’m not even looking as I write them. I’m outside the thin, blue, college-ruled lines. I’m here, right here, and this moment is the place to be. Danez Smith, perched upon the almost-bare stage, invites us all to yell, to stomp, to holler, to respond; their performance is a two-way street paved with hands raised in praise and the unrestrained cries of affirmed truth. Yes, this is the place to be: this is an experience, an occasion for expression, a site of freedom and declaration and the birth of a world reimagined.

The fourth visiting author of the Living Writers series gave this public reading on Oct. 24 after a question and answer session with the Living Writers classes was held earlier the same day. Smith, who is based in St. Paul, Minnesota, describes themself on their website as “a Black, Queer, Poz writer & performer,” who identifies as they/them. They have authored two collections of poetry, “Don’t Call Us Dead”, which was a finalist for the National Book Award, and “[insert] boy”, as well as co-hosting the poetry podcast *VS* with friend and fellow writer Franny Choi and participating in the Dark Noise Collective, a group of artists with the goal to, as Smith describes, “make love intentional.”

Smith’s reading in Miller Forum was the most well-attended Living Writers event so far this semester – students, faculty and community members alike filled up every available seat, so some gathered against the back wall, all aiming to hear the poet live in all their genius. Some audience members, like Asherdé Gill ‘20, had been following Smith’s work online well before their appearance at ‘Berg.

“I first learned of Danez Smith when I was a freshman in college. I was searching for poets that shared similar identities with me and instantly connected with their work,” said Gill. “If I was religious, Danez Smith′s poetry would be my religion. It is my home; the place where I roam without shame.”

Smith deconstructs this shame within their work, tearing it apart and thrusting some of the most stigmatized aspects of life out into the light. They read poems about sex and the journey of self-exploration, poems that rework the very fabric of America, poems that become verbs and take their own initiative to act beyond their author’s control. Living Writers student Bri Dailey ‘19 recalls the profound impact this fearless reading had on them.

“I knew that Smith was going to be a phenomenal performer of their work, but I didn′t realize the extent to which I would be absolutely swept away by their reading. Smith carried the audience through the deepest depth of each emotion, seamlessly waltzing us from laughter into solemn stillness into gasping shock,” Dailey said. “As a non-binary person who uses they/them pronouns, Smith′s work brings me such hope. Their talent, skill, and success demands academic and online presences alike to pay attention and respect to people of genders outside the binaries, particularly people of color, whose trans-ness is so often erased or ignored by the media.”

The spellbinding quality of Smith’s reading was echoed by Gill, for whom one poem out of the total 11 was particularly significant.

“A moment that filled me with life was finally getting to see Danez perform ‘dear white america,’” said Gill. “I previously watched Danez perform this poem on YouTube, and as good as the YouTube video was, nothing compares to the energy I felt actually being in the room with them. I felt the love, anger, and pain that went into writing that poem enter my soul and tell me that my feelings were justified; my anger and my hurt is justified. This reading allowed me to feel emotions that I have been locked inside of me for so long. A line that will always stick with me is ‘i tried to love you, but you spent my brother′s funeral making plans for brunch, talking too loud next to his bones.’”

On the page, this poem makes a rectangular block of text. Unlike many other poems in “Don’t Call Us Dead”, there are no line breaks every few words, no winding paths of thought to follow with wandering eyes. It’s all just there for the reader to digest sentence by sentence, a statement screaming in almost all lowercase letters, a soul tired of explaining and explaining and explaining what we’re doing wrong here. But it must be said – it must be said, or someone who needs to hear it might never do so. During the question and answer session, Smith described that they choose different poems to read to different audiences: mostly black audiences, for instance, might not be read “dear white america” because it reflects experiences the audience lives on a daily basis. For an audience like Muhlenberg, a primarily white institution, they said, “It’s important for you all to see this. [It might] change somebody’s mind.”

“If I was religious, Danez Smith’s poetry would be my religion. It is my home; the place where I roam without shame.”

At the reading, this poem is a different being than its paper-and-ink counterpart – not better, just different, a thing that breathes. Smith’s voice ebbs and flows, reaching a fever pitch and floating back down to quiet disappointment like a feather. They change their tenor completely as they read italicized lines, riffing off of the music of the words on the page. They turn commas into an unbearable alarm of repeating family members, their time all wasted; they go off the page; they feed off of the crowd’s growing roar; they repeat and remix until they reach a culminating question mark. “i have left Earth,” reads Smith, and so have we – we’re wherever they are, somewhere where the world’s knocking on the double doors but isn’t allowed in, not yet. Right now, we have this.

“It was a performance in every sense of the word; I clapped, cheered, cried, was angered, was ashamed, laughed again, on and on,” said Pierce Lockett ‘19, an audience member. “I brought a notebook to write down some key images or lines, but their words on the page hardly captured what it was I felt, what energy their poetry conveyed. Danez had my undivided attention and for that reason I left thinking, ‘Yeah, this is what poetry is supposed to be. I′m supposed to feel my bones separate from the rest of my body,’ without feeling like anything was forced or excessive. I was (and we all should be) deeply indebted to their coming to Muhlenberg ... Their work is embodied, more so than I could have ever expected. I was also so unprepared for how hysterical they were! ... Danez was right there, making you feel that poetry was like a live wire. And it is!”

As Lockett states, Smith’s personality goes far beyond the dark and high-stakes tone of some of their work. During the question and answer session, Smith was kind and downright delightful. They smiled and said hello to every single person who went up to the microphone and found ways to address each question with a great deal of thought and interest. In their presence, students shared personal stories of discrimination, worked through starstruck nervousness and reflected on familial struggles. Through it all, Smith cracked jokes as easily as they dropped lines of speech that sounded straight out of one of their poetry books. When asked how queer artists can cope through persecution and hardship, they talked about making art outside of the realm of activism as a mechanism of healing: “Poems are sad. Poems are defeated. Poems are everything a human can be.” Like their conception of poetry, Smith refuses to be defined or collapsed. “[My work is] just as hip-hop as it is Whitman,” they said. “Just as interested in Yeats as it is Yeezy.”

Gill believes that this multiplicity is central to Smith’s cultural relevance.

“Danez Smith′s poetry unapologetically calls out the things that are messed [up] in our personal lives, in this country, and in the world,” said Gill. “In this political climate, while we′re all living under a racist, transphobic, homophobic, sexist and ableist government, it is important to have writers that constantly fight against it. At the same time, it is important to have writers that create a space in their work for people that are hurting to heal. I feel seen, heard, loved and nurtured in their poetry.”

Smith’s final poem of the night, “dinosaurs in the hood,” crafts a pitch for a movie about a black boy and all those in his community fighting a dinosaur invasion, “*Jurassic Park* meets *Friday* meets *The Pursuit of Happyness*.” After imagining scenes of grandmothers triumphing over reptilian foes and refuting old tropes that hinge on stereotypes, the poem ends with the black boy’s assertion of life (“& no one kills the black boy” repeated four times) and the opening image of pure childlike wonder, the boy with a plastic dinosaur seeing a real one approach him on the bus, “his eyes wide & endless / his dreams possible,” – breath – “pulsing &” – breath...

Smith pauses here, their voice barely above a whisper. Their eyes fix on a spot in the distance. Their eyebrows rise. They extend one arm, index finger pointed, slowly, slowly, shaking. They’ve become that little black boy, in all of their curiosity and undeterred opportunity, they raise their voice and that trembling finger to the impossible dinosaur we can’t see –

“right there.”

Family Weekend

Friday, November 2

Noon – 8 p.m. **Family Weekend Information Table** (Lobby, Seegers Union)

Noon – 8 p.m. **Family Weekend Silent Auction** Sponsored by the Class of 2019 (Rooms 108/109/110, Seegers Union)

2 p.m. – 3 p.m. **Study Abroad Info Meeting** for First Years and Parents (Trumbower 130)

2 p.m. **3rd Student Recital: Students of Applied Music Performance** (Egner Chapel)

3 p.m. – 5 p.m. **Acopian Center for Ornithology** Explore The Research Museum at the Acopian Center for Ornithology which contains over 2,000 full-body mounts, hundreds of study skins and an assortment of other specimen types. (Fourth Floor, Shankweiler Building)

4 p.m. **Featured Faculty Discussion** (Miller Forum, Moyer Hall)

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. **Shabbat Services** Welcome Shabbat with Muhlenberg College Hillel. Join with students and their families at student-led Reform, Traditional Egalitarian (Conservative) or Modern Orthodox-style services. (Muhlenberg College Hillel: Leffell Center for Jewish Student Life, 2238 Chew Street)

6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. **Hillel Jewish Community Shabbat Dinner**
Meet-up with members of the Jewish community for a special Shabbat dinner. Families are invited to join together for blessings and a delicious kosher Shabbat dinner. This year's dinner is generously underwritten by two Muhlenberg families. RSVP strongly encouraged - hillel@muhlenberg.edu. (Muhlenberg College Hillel: Leffell Center for Jewish Student Life, 2238 Chew Street)

8 p.m. **Student Talent Show** Enjoy performances by a variety of our talented student groups. (Event Space, Seegers Union)

8 p.m. – Midnight **Free Caricatures and Mini Donut Factory** (Lobby, Seegers Union)

8 p.m. **"Brigadoon"**
(Paul C. Empie Theatre, Baker Center for the Arts)

Midnight – 3 a.m. **Late Night at the GQ**

Saturday, November 3

8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **Free Continental Breakfast** (Fireside Lounge, Seegers Union)

9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **Chaplain's Office Open House** Join us for coffee, tea, pastries and a chance to meet the Chaplain, tour Egner Chapel and learn about Religous Life at Muhlenberg. (Egner Memorial Chapel)

9 a.m. – Noon **Family Weekend Information Table** (Lobby, Seegers Union)

9 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Family Weekend Silent Auction** Sponsored by the Class of 2019 (Rooms 108/109/110, Seegers Union)

9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. **"Join the Global Community: Study Abroad"** (Miller Forum, Moyer Hall)

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. **Family Tailgate** Everyone is invited to Parents Plaza for free face painting, music, food, and fun! (Parents Plaza)

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. **Career Center Open House** (Lower Level, Seegers Union)

10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. **State of the College Address** (Paul C. Empie Theatre, Baker Center for the Arts)

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **College Choir & Wind Ensemble** Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* (Egner Memorial Chapel)

12 p.m. – 1 p.m. **Multicultural Center Open House** (2252 Chew Street)

12 p.m. – 8 p.m. **Martin Gallery is Open!** (Martin Art Gallery, Baker Center for the Arts)

1 p.m. **Football vs. Gettysburg** (Scotty Wood Stadium)

2 p.m. **"Brigadoon"**
(Paul C. Empie Theatre, Baker Center for the Arts)

4 p.m. **Movie in the Red Door "Sing"** (Red Door, Seegers Union)

5 p.m. **Roman Catholic Mass** (Egner Memorial Chapel)

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. **Muhlenberg Hillel Staff Reception/Third Meal** Join us for a light Third Meal (*Seudah Shlisheet*) to meet our new and returning Hillel Staff, learn about new Jewish Learning Fellowship, a 10-week experiential and conversation-based Jewish exploration of big questions in our lives. We'll get a taste of the fellowship with a little reflection on our own and others' family stories. (Muhlenberg College Hillel: Leffell Center for Jewish Student Life, 2238 Chew Street)

6:30 p.m. **Havdalah** Mark the conclusion of Shabbat and the beginning of the new week through the ritual of *Havdalah* with Muhlenberg College Hillel. (Havdalah will take place at 6:39 p.m.) (Muhlenberg College Hillel: Leffell Center for Jewish Student Life, 2238 Chew Street)

8 p.m. **"Brigadoon"**
(Paul C. Empie Theatre, Baker Center for the Arts)

8 p.m. **Bonfire and Beer Garden** Enjoy drinks and desserts outside by the warmth of our bonfire! (Trexler Library Lawn)

9 p.m. **Ted Conner Jazz Quartet** Join Dr. Ted Conner, Professor of Music, and friends for a relaxed evening of jazz. (Egner Chapel)

Midnight – 3 a.m. **Late Night at the GQ**

Sunday, November 4

8 a.m. – Midnight **Information Center** (Lobby, Seegers Union)

10 a.m. – Noon **Hillel Bagel Brunch** A Hillel tradition. All are invited to the Hillel House to enjoy bagels, learn about Jewish life at the college and connect with Muhlenberg College Hillel students and their families. Hillel merchandise will be available for purchase by cash or check. (Muhlenberg College Hillel: Leffell Center for Jewish Student Life, 2238 Chew Street)

10:30 a.m. **First Time Dean's List Recognition Celebration** (by invitation only—questions call (484) 664-3130) Eligible students and families will have received invitations in the mail. (Moyer Hall, Miller Foruml)

2 p.m. **"Brigadoon"**
(Paul C. Empie Theatre, Baker Center for the Arts)

5 p.m. **Protestant Chapel Service with Holy Communion** All are welcome for this weekly service that features scripture, singing, prayer, a sermon by the College Chaplain, and Holy Communion. Afterwards, join us for dinner and community in the Hoffman House. (Egner Memorial Chapel followed by dinner in the Hoffman House)

7 p.m. **WMUH 70th Anniversary Concert**
Doors open at 7 p.m. (Event Space, Seegers Union)

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Public Relations

Muhlenberg College

2400 Chew Street | Allentown, PA 18104-5586
484-664-3100 muhlenberg.edu

1. **Seegers Union #**
Academic Resource Center
'Berg Bookshop
Career Center
Community Engagement
Dining Services
Event Space
Disability Services
Great Room
General's Quarters
Hoffman Portico
Java Joe's
Mule Express
PPL Green Roof
Pre-Professional Services
Prevention Education
Red Door Cafe
Seegers Union Director
Senior Year Experience
StudentEngagement
Student Government Association

Wood Dining Commons

2. **New Science Building #**
Altman Reading Room
Biology
Biochemistry
Ecology
Environmental Science
Neuroscience

3. **Shankweiler Building & Trexler Tower**
Acopian Center (Ornithology)
Biology
Chemistry
Greenhouse
Research Facilities

4. **The Century Arch**

5. **Trumbower Hall**
Chemistry
Lithgow Auditorium
Mathematics and Computer Science
Physics

6. **Haas College Center**
Admission
Alumni Relations
Controller/Treasurer
Deans
Development
Financial Aid
Human Resources
President
Provost
Purchasing
Registrar
Title IX Coordinator

7. **Ettinger Hall**
Accounting
Business
Economics
Finance
Languages, Literatures and Cultures
History
Information/Technology
Media Services
Political Science

8. **Moyer Hall**
Education
Institute for Jewish-Christian Understanding
Philosophy
Psychology
Religion Studies

9. **Egner Memorial Chapel**

10. **Gabriel House #**
Muhlenberg Summer Study
Muhlenberg College Wescoe School of Continuing Education

11. **Trexler Library #**
AT&T Information Commons
Fulford Room
Muhlenberg Room
Writing Center

12. **Baker Center for the Arts**
Art
English
Film Studies
Martin Art Gallery
Music
Paul C. Empie Theatre
Recital Hall

13. **Trexler Pavilion for Theatre & Dance**
Dorothy Hess Baker Theatre
Theatre & Dance
Studio Theatre and Dance Studios

14. **Benfer Hall #**
Student Residence

15. **South Hall #**
Student Residence

16. **Robertson Hall #**
Student Residence

17. **Prosser Hall* #**
Student Residence
Residential Services
Campus Safety and Security

18. **Walz Hall #**
Student Residence

19. **Brown Hall**
Student Residence
Brown Hall Dance Studio

20. **Kathryn P. Taylor Hall #**
Student Residence
Lower Level Classrooms

21. **Walson Hall* #**
WMUH
MCTV
Media & Communication

22. **Services Buildings #**
Mail Room
Plant Operations
Copy Center

23. **Scotty Wood Stadium/ Marino Field**
Synthetic Field, All-Weather Track

24. **Life Sports Center/ Brueckner Wing**
Alumni Pool
Athletics
Counseling
Development Services
Dietrich Field House
Fitness Center
Heffer Health Services Suite
Indoor Track
Levering Tyson Wing
Life Sports Center Café
Memorial Hall (Gymnasium)
The Muhlenberg Fund
Pilates Center
Racquetball Courts
Wrestling Room

25. **The "Courts"**
Student Residence

26. **Martin Luther Hall #**
Student Residence
The Underground

27. **East Hall #**
Student Residence

28. **Muhlenberg Independent Living Experience (M.I.L.E. House)**
(2411 Liberty St.)

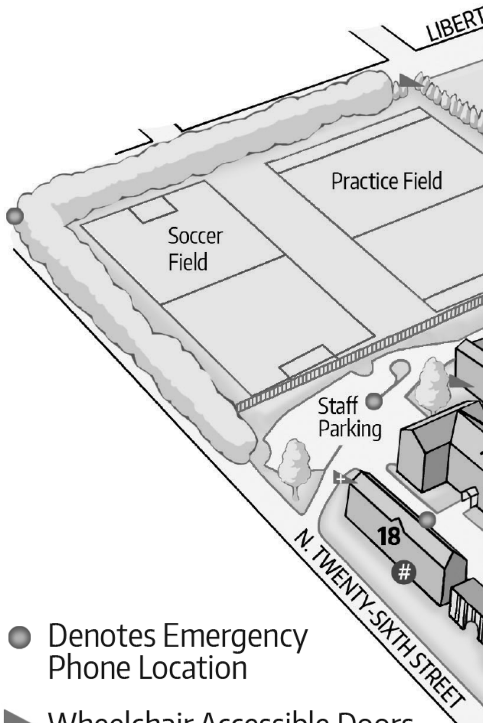
29. **Catholic Chaplaincy (Newman Center)**
(2339-2343 Liberty St.)

30. **M.I.L.E. House**
(2333 Liberty St.)

31. **M.I.L.E. House**
(2317 Liberty St.)

32. **Faculty/Staff Housing**
(2315 Liberty St.)

33. **M.I.L.E. House**
(2251 Liberty St.)



● Denotes Emergency Phone Location
◣ Wheelchair Accessible Doors
* First Floor Access Only
◣ Automatic Doors & Wheelchair Accessible Doors
Gender Neutral Bathroom Facility

34. **M.I.L.E. House**
(2245 Liberty St.)

35. **M.I.L.E. House**
(2241-2243 Liberty St.)

36. **M.I.L.E. House**
(2216-2218 Liberty St.)

37. **M.I.L.E. House**
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38. **M.I.L.E. House**
(439 N. 23rd St.)

39. **M.I.L.E. House**
(435-437 N. 23rd St.)

40. **427-429 N. 23rd St.**
M.I.L.E. House (427 N. 23rd St.)
Staff Housing (429 N. 23rd St.)

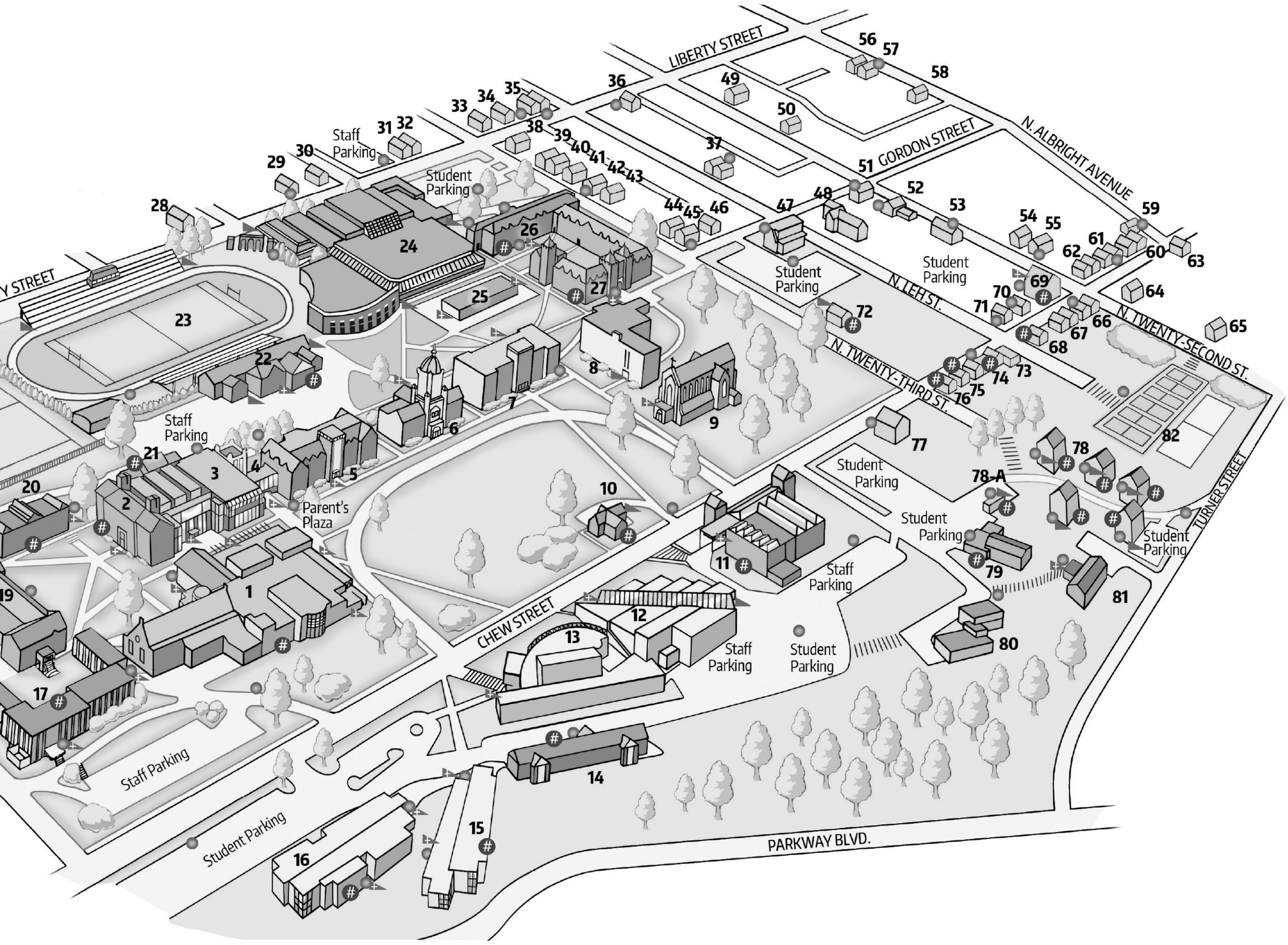
41. **Staff Housing**
(425 N. 23rd St.)

42. **M.I.L.E. House**
(423 N. 23rd St.)

43. **Faculty/Staff Housing**
(411 N. 23rd St.)

44. **M.I.L.E. House**
(407-409 N. 23rd St.)

45. **M.I.L.E. House**
(2245 Gordon St.)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GORDON STREET
N. ALBRIGHT AVENUE
N. LEH ST.
N. TWENTY-THIRD ST.
N. TWENTY-SECOND ST.
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CHEW STREET
PARKWAY BLVD.
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46. **M.I.L.E. House**
(2235 Gordon St.)

47. **M.I.L.E. House**
(2228 Gordon St.)

48. **President's House***
(339 N. Leh St.)

49. **M.I.L.E. House**
(413-415 N. 22nd St.)

50. **M.I.L.E. House**
(409-411 N. 22nd St.)

51. **Delta Tau Delta**
(2202 Gordon St.)

52. **Phi Mu**
(330 N. 22nd St.)

53. **Delta Zeta**
(320 N. 22nd St.)

54. **M.I.L.E. House**
(323 N. 22nd St.)

55. **M.I.L.E. House**
(319-321 N. 22nd St.)

56. **M.I.L.E. House**
(432 N. Albright Ave.)

57. **M.I.L.E. House**
(428 N. Albright Ave.)

58. **M.I.L.E. House**
(414 N. Albright Ave.)

59. **M.I.L.E. House**
(318 N. Albright Ave.)

60. **M.I.L.E. House**
(2135-2137 Chew St.)

61. **M.I.L.E. House**
(2141-2143 Chew St.)

62. **M.I.L.E. House**
(2145-2147 Chew St.)

63. **M.I.L.E. House**
(2142 Chew St.)

64. **Faculty/Staff Housing**
(2152 Chew St.)

65. **Faculty/Staff Housing**
(221 N. 22nd St.)

66. **M.I.L.E. House**
(2206-2208 Chew St.)

67. **M.I.L.E. House**
(2214-2216 Chew St.)

68. **Office of Communications #**
(2222 Chew St.)

69. **Residence Hall #**
(2201 Chew St.)

70. **Alpha Chi Omega**
(Millerheim House)
(2221 Chew St.)

71. **Phi Sigma Sigma (Henrietta House)**
(2223 Chew St.)

72. **Hoffman House* #**
(325 N. 23rd St.)

73. **Anthropology/Sociology**
(2230 Chew St.)

74. **Hillel: The Leffell Center for Jewish Student Life#**
(2238 Chew St.)

75. **Global Education #**
(2242 Chew St.)

76. **Multicultural Center* #**
(2252 Chew St.)

77. **Alpha Tau Omega**
(2302 Chew St.)

78. **The Village #**
Student Residences
(2251-2267 Turner St.)

78A. **The Village Laundry & Common Room #**
(2304 Chew St.)

79. **Hillside House #**
Art
Innovation and Entrepreneurship

80. **Sigma Phi Epsilon**

81. **Rehearsal House**
Music, Theatre and Dance
Trexler Amphitheatre
(2309 Turner St.)

82. **Tennis & Beach Volleyball Courts**

Non-campus sites:

- **Cedar Creek Field** (baseball & softball)
- **2442 Tilghman St.** ●
- **2625 Liberty St.**
- **Everson House**, 2601 Chew St.
- **Faculty/Staff House**, 2626 Chew St.
- **Faculty/Staff House**, 2625 Liberty St.
- **Faculty/Staff House**, 2604 Chew St.
- **Faculty/Staff House**, 2610 Chew St.
- **Faculty/Staff House**, 316 N. 26th St.
- **Faculty/Staff House**, 215 Ott St.
- **Faculty/Staff House**, 233 Ott St.
- **Conrad Raker Biological Field Station #**
- **Graver Arboretum #**

FROM **CARMINA** PAGE 6

-tween so many students and faculty. It also is a beautiful and energetic piece of music, and I am sure that there is a least one part of the piece that everyone will be able to connect to."

You might recognize the first movement of *Carmina Burana*, "O fortuna," in various popular films, such as *Glory*, *The Hunt for Red October* and *Excalibur*. Once you hear those resounding, echoing base drums, you know that where, when or whatever you are about to do or go, it is sure to be dramatic and glorious. "O fortuna" is a piece that demands and holds your attention indefinitely — but what of the other movements?

"The first movement appears in a lot of action films," clarified Ardizzoia, "The rest of it is really, really wonderful stuff. There's some really lyrical moments; there are some equally dramatic moments that are just as uplifting and moving as that first."

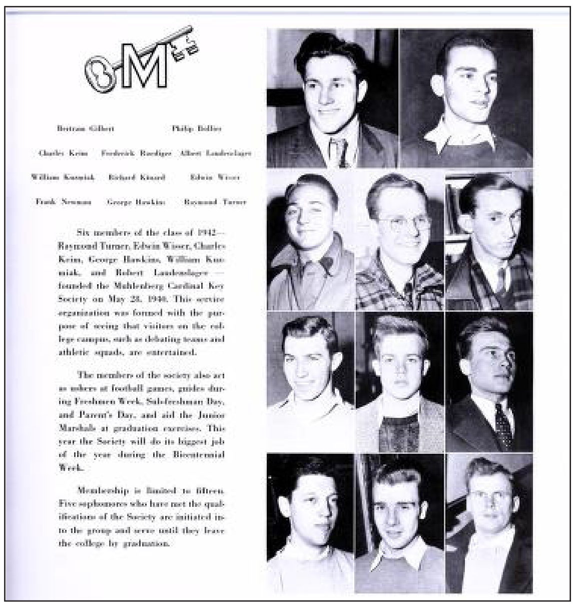
Carmina Burana is a massive work; it's really complex, but is a masterpiece worth seeing in person.

I asked Greta Ohanian '20 to elaborate further on importance of such a production, as she is both a member of the choir and Wind Ensemble.

"I think Muhlenberg students and faculty should see Carmina Burana because it is unlike any other pieces you may have seen performed at past Muhlenberg concerts," Ohanian said. "It incorporates both the wind ensemble and college choir, both two fantastic groups on campus, and is a very popular piece of classical repertoire. The audience will be able to recognize parts of the piece that are familiar from popular culture while also hearing new movements they have not heard before."

Community and connections: the Cardinal Key society

PHOTO COURTESY OF MUHLENBERG PUBLIC RELATIONS


Bertram Gilbert Philip Bollier

Charles Keim Frederick Roediger Albert Laudenslager

William Kusmiak Richard Kinard Edwin Wisser

Frank Newman George Hawkins Raymond Turner

Six members of the class of 1942—Raymond Turner, Edwin Wisser, Charles Keim, George Hawkins, William Kusmiak, and Robert Laudenslager — founded the Muhlenberg Cardinal Key Society on May 28, 1940. This service organization was formed with the purpose of seeing that visitors on the college campus, such as debating teams and athletic squads, are entertained.

The members of the society also act as ushers at football games, guides during Freshmen Week, Sub-freshman Day, and Parent's Day, and aid the Junior Marshals at graduation exercises. This year the Society will do its biggest job of the year during the Bicentennial Week.

Membership is limited to fifteen. Five sophomores who have met the qualifications of the Society are initiated into the group and serve until they leave the college by graduation.

Left: Michael Bonaddio '20 and Ashley Polera '20 are two members of Muhlenberg's 78-year old organization. Right: Cardinal Key Society in the 1943 edition of The Ciarla, courtesy of Trexler Library Special Collections.

BY HANNAH TURNER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Cardinal Key Society has been posting flyers around campus in order to try to recruit applicants for the following year, but there still seems to be a sense that not many people understand what exactly the organization entails.

Founded by six members of class of 1942 in May 1940, since then, the Keys have acquired an extensive presence on campus. According to their page on the Muhlenberg College Alumni website, "The Society has grown over the years to provide a cohesive program for student involvement in the greater College community, specifically with alumni."

Students may apply to serve as a member of the Cardinal Key Society in the Fall semester of their freshman and sophomore year. The deadline to apply for next semester just passed this Tuesday, but current freshmen may look ahead to next Fall to apply during their sophomore year.

Rasleen Grewal '20 is the current secretary of Cardinal Key and she speaks openly about what it takes to be a member of the organization and what their role is on campus.

According to Grewal, Cardinal Key is best described as an organization of student ambassadors or liaisons between alumni and our current student body. At any given alumni event, these students act as point-people for alumni, offering them tours and insights about what is currently going on at Muhlenberg.

The two biggest events for Cardinal Key Society include commencement and Alumni Weekend. At commencement, the Keys assist with the lectures at these events, deal with logistical elements such as parking and prepare the graduates before they walk. At Alumni Weekend, the Keys can be seen transporting alumni, giving campus tours, mingling at luncheons and facilitating question and answer sessions.

"It helps me learn how to network with alumni. You have to strike up conversation with any alumni and be that friendly face for them on campus," says Grewal. She has already made many valuable connections with alumni that will benefit her when she graduates in a year.

It is not just the connections that are beneficial, though.

"It's a really fun group of leaders," explains Grewal. "I feel like everyone in Cardinal Key Society is a leader, and every single person has the opportunity to gain leadership skills."

The community that Cardinal Key fosters has proven valuable to student leaders like Grewal who are always looking for a way to get involved on campus.

Grewal remembers her favorite experience as a Cardinal Key, which was when the Keys were able to give the 50th class reunion group a campus tour.

"To be able to witness all of their reactions on how much the school has changed was really meaningful," notes Grewal. "To see how much they cared about the school even 50 years out was really exciting and speaks to how special this place is."

It is experiences like these that help Grewal and other Cardinal Keys remember why Muhlenberg is such a valuable place, even 50 years after graduation.

"This is a really special place, and I'm so glad I get to share its changes with the people who have shaped my Muhlenberg experience," says Grewal.

Additional reporting by Sydney Coplin

Want your photos published?
Trying to start a portfolio?
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Contact bergweeklylayout@gmail for more information

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY/OPINIONS&EDITORIALS

Editorial

The catalyst for change

Another week of bloodshed. Another week of mourning. Another week of fruitless political debate. And yet another week of devastating inaction.

No longer do Americans raise the question, "How could we let this happen?" We know how we let this happen. We remained silent.

In the pursuit of "civility," we have been continuously encouraged by our president to "listen to both sides." Quite frankly, there is no "both sides." Either you are on the side of humanity, or you are on the side of fascism. There is no longer a middle ground––there never was. By entertaining the far-right's vitriol in the name of the first amendment, we allowed this wound to fester, to metastasize into a cancer that has left no aspect of society unscathed. We can no longer accept thoughts and prayers as suitable remedies to the violent intolerance that plagues our country.

Sound dramatic? Of course it does. How can we not be dramatic when fascists are massacring minorities in the name of white nationalism? How can we remain "civil" when domestic terrorists are targeting dissenting individuals and institutions with violence?

Students continue to beg the question, "What do we do?" The answer from conservatives and liberals alike is to vote. But participation in an electoral system that never worked in the first place can only do so much. Now is the time to organize.

Many of Muhlenberg's students are privileged enough to never have to worry about becoming a target for hate, and thus have never felt the urgency to organize. Plenty of these students consider themselves part of the #Resistance, but contrary to popular belief, retweets do not count as political activism. It's up to us as students to unite in solidarity and make it clear that violence–verbal and physical–has no place on this campus. Privileged students, who perhaps never felt the urgency to organize before, must break their silence and amplify the voices of those who go unheard.

Our editorial board is comprised of these privileged students. We will be first to admit that we are a largely homogenous organization. Our staff simply does not reflect the diversity of the student population. As the school's only student-run newspaper, we have a duty to make sure the voices of *all* students are represented. We want students of all identities to feel comfortable enough to come forward and speak up about issues that are not being addressed fairly. Meanwhile, we don't want students to be tokenized or exploited.

At times, our eagerness as journalists manifests as aggression, making students (understandably) uncomfortable. Caught up in the pursuit of the truth, we overlook our peers as merely sources of information. We recognize that students are more than the identities and labels they adopt (or have been forced onto them by society). No matter how good our intentions, our previous approaches have been insensitive, and even dehumanizing, for which we can only apologize. Rather than acting as impartial journalists, we must act as allies.

The role of an ally is not to speak over those we aim to support. It is not to weave the trauma of marginalized students into a narrative for performative pity. To call ourselves allies we must show our solidarity by offering our platform as a space for students to communicate and exchange ideas that might otherwise go unheard.

This is how we as students can make a difference. Let The Weekly act as your megaphone, use us as a resource to introduce your thoughts and ideas to the campus discourse. *This is how we can catalyze change.*

So send us your anger, your fears, your hopes and your dreams. But no matter what you choose, do not censor yourself. We can no longer afford to stay silent.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

Sorry, the old Will can't come to the phone right now

Why? Oh, cause he's dead!

By Bill Bamser
Humorist

That's right y'all Bill Bamser is back baby, and no that was not a reference to Austin Powers. I normally would reference Austin Powers, but I'm not that guy anymore. That guy is gone, he has retired and seems to be coming down with something devilish. But that's exactly the point of this article, to show that I am not Will Wamser. For those of you who have not been keeping up with this epic, Will Wamser was the Op Ed section editor for the paper who retired and I, Bill Bamser, a completely different person, has filled his void. But I've been hearing rumors that I, Bill Bamser, am actually Will Wamser, which is cray cray to the max. Mr. Wamser may as well be dead because there is only Bill.

After an article like this, where I truly spread my wings as Bill Bamser, I wouldn't be surprised if Will Wamser never returns.

True fans will note that in the past I have only written about Will Wamser, first giving my opinion of his leaving and the second being an interview with the man himself. So, I am here to distance myself from Mr. Wamser, so why are we even talking about it? I'm not Will anymore. Or, no. I never was Will, right?

I'm sorry the canon has become confusing to me. I'm not Will, never was. Never was. So now, as Bill, I can say the things I never could as Will. Wait, s---, no! I could never say anything as Will because I've always been Bill. Or am I Kile? No, stick to Bill. How do I put this without confusing myself? There are some things that Will couldn't say, that I, as Bill, can say. I shouldn't say as Bill, just Bill. For now, I am Bill and forever I guess. I don't know how Bruce does this double life thing. That's Bruce Wayne, I call him Bruce because he's a personal friend. So here we go, I don't think dads should be allowed to vote.

There, I said it.

Dads have no right to vote, check the constitution. Not that constitution, I'm talkin' 'bout the constitution of ME! ME.S.A! ME.S.A! ME.S.A! Think about it like this, every dad is a bum. They just make empty promises and leave you sitting in the dougout (that was my buddy Doug's backyard) just drenched and alone with Doug. A dad is nothing but a bozo, ashing his or her cigar in the baptismal font. Dad may giveth, but Bill taketh away.

That felt good, finally getting something off my chest that Will could never say. Bill doesn't have any obligations or responsibilities. And, sure, I may not be getting respect, but Bill sure as heck doesn't deserve respect. I'm the new Bad Boy of the Muhlenberg Weekly, I mean did you see when I almost cursed earlier in the article? That's hardcore, they had to censor me!! Fricking rad bro.

What's something else I've always wanted to write about but couldn't because of all my obligations? Here's one, I am a nationalist, through and through. That felt good to say. But allow me to explain, a nationalist is someone who wants political independence for a country. That's not me, I'm just xenophobic and dumb. I hate every country that doesn't have me in it. And I know what you are all thinking, this guy is a threat. Well, you're not wrong. But I have fair reasoning. No other country in the world has given the Menited States of America the respect we deserve, year in and year out we show up to play ball with the best of them and the other countries leave us out to dry. And how long have we been letting them get away with this? Since 1903, how long is that? My calculator broke the other day so someone has to do the math and get back to me. But it sounds like a long time for no other country to come up to bat.

Every year we send our best and brightest to compete in a world competition and we are always alone, the embarrassment of it all. I mean it's the world series for crisps sake! We always extend the invite for all the countries to come get a nice hot dog at Fenway and each year we are rebuked. And that is why I am xenophobic. And while it might not be why I am dumb, I feel it acts as a good example.

I think I could get used to being Bill Bamser, except I already am used to it because I'm not Will Wamser.'

I think I could get used to being Bill Bamser, except I already am used to it because I'm not Will Wamser. There have been a few times where I thought I was gonna let the secret go, but I save it every time. I'm good at this. Not to toot my own horn or anything, but I am really good at this. Do I hear an oscar calling? Or is it wedding bells? What is the famous phrase? Please tell me. But after an article like this, where I truly spread my wings as Bill Bamser, I wouldn't be surprised if Will Wamser never returns. You better like this Bad Boy of Muhlenberg, 'cause Bill's here to stay. If you've got a problem with that, take it up with me on Facebook.

Social media isn't a "weapon of mass destruction"

By Cynthia Silva
Contributing Writer

Alice Stinebaugh, a Parkland High School economics teacher, said, "[Students] know that [social media] is a potential weapon of mass destruction." Stinebaugh said this at Parkland's First Amendment Forum, and she was referring to social media, specifically the dangers of hate speech.

It wasn't a statement out of the blue. Christopher Borick, Muhlenberg College professor of political science, had created poll questions for Parkland students on whether hate speech should be allowed in social media and if the government should help to regulate it. Polls showed 59 percent of Parkland students strongly and somewhat agreed with government intervention in monitoring hate speech on social media.

But I argue students aren't aware of the dangers that come with government intervention. When it came to the first amendment, almost 40 percent of poll respondents had trouble even naming one of the five freedoms. The digital age we are living in is a pivotal moment in history, especially for students. Yet these poll numbers show students aren't fully aware of the impact government regulation can have on a community.

It seems they are far too aware of the frustrations of social media, which is reasonable. For example, although social media is a means of freely communicating information, hate speech is an inevitable byproduct that allows for dissemination of bigotry. But should this hate speech be censored?

Freedom of speech, one of the five freedoms under the First Amendment, is one of the most fundamental rights held by American citizens. The intense desire for this right catalyzed the American Revolution itself. Although it may seem that the only freedom of speech found in social media is hate speech, freedom of speech is also characteristic of all other content. We tend to not recognize the rights we have until we see someone using that right in a way we disapprove of.

We must also recognize freedom of speech is a privilege we have that much of the world does not. As the daughter of an immigrant, my mother shares stories about how her opinions were suppressed in her home country. She often reflects on how the government did not protect the speech of their citizens, often allowing drug gangs to murder politicians without being held accountable. She had to make sure her opinions did not conflict with the interest of drug gangs that controlled the village she lived in.

Therefore, the rights that come with social media can allow for hate speech, but I argue students should look at the bigger picture and the unique freedoms the First Amendment provides.

"[Media] is one of the key cornerstones of our democracy," said David Erdman, former editor and chief of The Morning Call. Considering social media is very often used politically, reducing freedom of speech would prohibit Americans from exercising the principles of this democracy.

The Beat with Matt Beaune

The culture of crime at Muhlenberg

By Matt Beaune
Investigative Reporter

I am truly honored to be the newest investigative reporter joining the incredible staff at the Muhlenberg Weekly. In this job, I intend to dive deep into the things that matter most to the students, faculty, and staff at Muhlenberg. When I first pitched my idea for this column to my higher ups at the Weekly, I wanted to get to the bottom of the things that matter to the students. Like who chooses the Ben and Jerry's flavors at GQ, why does Plant Ops cut a million little holes into the grass every two weeks and if the pool in the Life Sports Center is a myth, but recent developments have changed my priorities.

One of the most valuable aspects of Muhlenberg, in my opinion, is how safe I feel when I'm here. When I moved in freshman year because I had never lived so far away from my home and my family and friends. Luckily, I was relieved to find the support systems for students on campus. I was reassured that everything would be fine and I'm just as safe here as I am back at home. From Campus Safety and the Title IX Office to HRL and the resident advisors, I always felt protected from any serious danger.

However, something is palpably different this year. I, and as I assume many other students, have seen not only an increase in random, individual acts of crime but emerging patterns of somewhat organized crime that, if not stopped, WILL lead to an end of the campus that we know and love. Which is why I decided to start a column in the Muhlenberg Weekly, I believe it is of utmost importance that we as students stay informed about what is actually going on in the shadows of Academic Row and that we give credit where credit is due to those brave souls who are actually fighting the good fight to stop the criminals before they seriously hurt someone.

I'll show you what I mean. Last Tuesday, I was grabbing a quick lunch in the dining hall, so I put my wallet on a table near the fireplace to mark my territory. When I returned to my table with a slice of chocolate cake and fries (I was having a rough morning), I found that my wallet had been rifled through and my Menchie's rewards card was missing, and no amount of chocolate-vanilla swirl could cool the fires burning inside me.

And it doesn't stop at petty theft. It's getting tough to ignore the graffiti that has been popping up around campus. Last week it was "Boo-lenberg Sux" across The Courts. Monday it was a drawing of the college president with a handlebar mustache on the side of the belltower. And just this morning, this vagrant struck again, turning Victor's Lament upside down (how it maintained balance might be the subject of my next investigative report).

And obviously, none of this is to say that I don't think Campus Safety is doing a good job. To the contrary, I think they are doing an amazing job, but they simply couldn't be trained to deal with the kinds of plagues that are infecting our campus today. For example, do you think they're trained to take down the professor in the Philosophy Department who reached enlightenment and was floating down the halls of Moyer hypnotizing any student who dared pass him? Can you really expect them to know what to do when a giant robotic lizard erupts from the soccer fields and begins to eat the residents of Walz, as it did over the weekend?

These kinds of things are far beyond what we should expect from Campus Safety or Allentown PD. But one thing is for sure, we need someone who is brave enough to take on these criminals. Maybe it will be a brave officer, or maybe, just maybe, the hero we need walks among us now. It is often said that the most apt heroes hide in plain sight, right under your nose or in the byline of an article waiting for their moment. Maybe the hero we need is just a regular old student writing an investigative reporting column for the Muhlenberg Weekly. A strong student, who is funny, handsome and, most importantly, incredibly humble. I will not rest until our campus is back to what we all know and love. So stay tuned, loyal readers, I have a feeling there will be some major developments in the next week.

Who's mightier, the keyboard or the pen?

By Shan Jameson
Contributing Writer

Laptop policies are different in all courses but a lot of professors ban laptop usage in class.

I'm allowed to use my laptop in three out of my four classes. The professor of my fourth class is a firm believer of no devices, only permitting their usage during workshops.

Many professors believe that laptops are distracting and don't allow students to fully engage with the material. In my experience, laptops also make it less likely that students might participate in class discussions. Conversely, some students think that laptops have the opposite effect. They believe laptops allow for quicker note taking, letting them search unfamiliar terms and create more organized forms of notes. In some ways, students can absorb more through a laptop than the conventional pen and paper.

In some ways, students can absorb more through a laptop than the conventional pen and paper.

There has been a growth of evidence that back up professors' arguments for banning laptops. This distraction isn't only a problem for the students on their laptops, but it can also affect the surrounding students. They can also be distracting for the professor, as their students are not looking up at them.

In a sequence of experiments at Princeton University and the University of California, Los Angeles, students were randomly assigned to either take notes with a pen and paper or a laptop. The study showed that those who used laptops had considerably worse comprehension of the class material compared to those who used the old-school method of pen and paper.

While it is evident from studies that college students learn less and get worse grades when they use electronic devices in class, I find this research problematic because no one student is the same and you can't just assume all students would be affected by laptops like the ones in the study.

There may be one student who is dedicated to their academics and uses their laptop solely to have organized notes. Other students may use their laptop to watch baseball games during class or look through social media. If laptops are a valuable tool to some students, why should they have the privilege taken away just because of the students who are distracted by them?

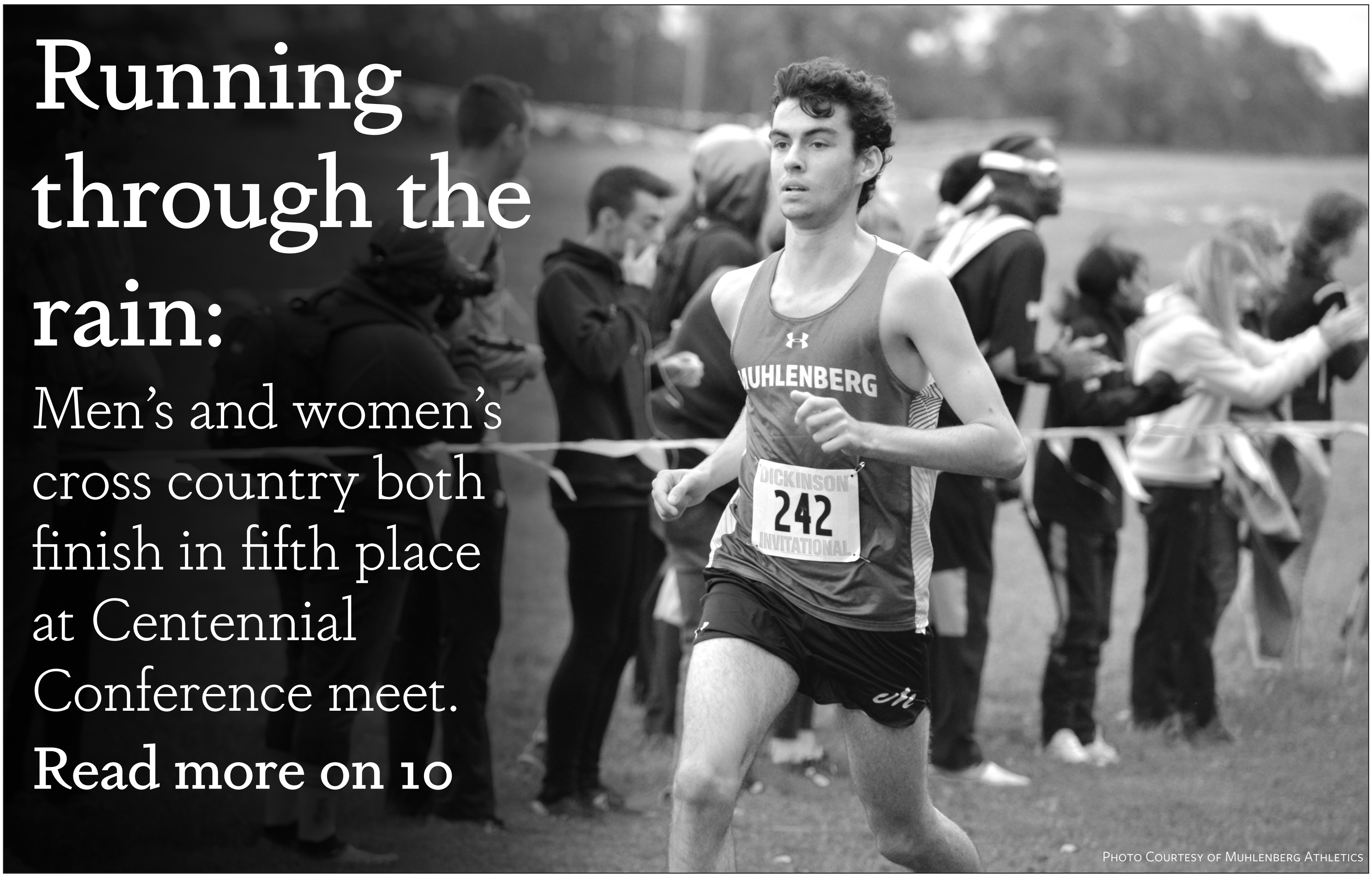
Most college students are above the age of 18, which means that they are adults and are legally permitted to vote, play the lottery, buy fireworks and buy cigarettes. So why can't students have the choice to have their laptops in class? It's the students' responsibility to take ownership of their actions by recognizing that they are accountable for their academic success.

I can see how this can be frustrating on both parties. Since I am student with a learning disability, having a laptop in class is crucial for me at times. It helps me take accurate notes with correct spelling. When taking notes with pen and paper, my notes are filled with spelling errors and that makes me feel unorganized.

I don't think professors should ban laptops completely. I think there should be a compromise between having them in class and removing the distraction. For example, if there is an open discussion the professor could ask the students to close the laptops. On the other hand, I think devices should be allowed if the professor is giving a lecture.

Overall I think there should be room in between allowing all access to the devices in class and turning them all off to reduce distraction. I believe there are different approaches professors can take instead of immediately having a no laptop policy.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS



Running through the rain:

Men's and women's cross country both finish in fifth place at Centennial Conference meet.

Read more on 10

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Blocking out the noise

Volleyball will not have home-court advantage in playoffs

By Alex Blum
Contributing Writer

The regular season has finally closed and the Mules have once again clinched a playoff berth. After defeating Swarthmore, they wrapped up the season on the road yet again in Chestertown, MD against Washington College, where the ladies concluded their season with a stellar record of 20-7, the fifth time the women have reached the 20 win mark in the last six seasons, and 7-3 overall in conference play. The Mules are entering the tournament as one of the hottest teams, going 8-2 in their final 10 games. The group would love to have this dominance carry over into the playoffs and ultimately culminate into a championship.

> **"We've proven to ourselves throughout the season that we can reach our peak playing ability."**

On Wednesday Oct. 24, the Swarthmore College Garnet rolled into Memorial Hall, having lost their previous two match-ups against Wesleyan University and Susquehanna University. The first two sets were lopsided as they first went to the Mules 25-16 while the second was taken by the Garnets 25-12. After that, however, it was a tight, tense battle where the ladies would eventually come out victorious claiming the next sets 25-22 and 25-23. With 10 kills in the match, Kelly Tornetta '19 reached 306 for the season, making her only the third player in team history with three 300-kill years. Although taking the loss, Swarthmore still clinched a playoff spot

SEE **VOLLEYBALL** PAGE 11

Field hockey forces home match in first round of playoffs

By Brandon Kossin
Contributing Writer

Entering this week, the Muhlenberg women's field hockey team had already clinched a Centennial Conference postseason berth. Remaining on their schedule were games against conference rivals Swarthmore and Washington College.

On Wednesday, Oct. 24, the Mules captured a 1-0 victory against Swarthmore. The only goal was scored by Courtney Allen '19, at approximately the 30-minute mark. This goal was assisted by Rachel Richards '21.

Later in the week, the Muhlenberg field hockey team traveled to Washington College for their regular season finale. The Mules were able to also win this matchup by a score of 3-2. The first goal of the game was scored by Richards on a rebound. The second two goals of the game were scored by Steph Rydgren '19. The first goal was scored off of a rebound and the second goal was assisted by Megan Webber '22. It was a good week for the Mules, as they were able to close off their strong season with two

SEE **FIELD HOCKEY** PAGE 10

Coming up this week in SPORTS

Saturday, Nov. 3

Football	Wrestling	Volleyball	Field Hockey
Muhlenberg vs Gettysburg	*Ned McGinley Invitational*	*Centennial Conference Playoffs*	*Centennial Conference Playoffs*
Saturday, Nov. 3 @ 1:00 pm	Saturday, Nov. 3 @ 9:00 pm	Saturday, Nov. 3	Saturday, Nov. 3
Scotty Wood Stadium	Wilkes-Barre, Pa.	F&M Lancaster, Pa	F&M Lancaster, Pa

Women's Soccer comes up short of Centennial Conference playoffs

By Jason Grant
Contributing Writer

With a 2-0 defeat to Washington College on Saturday, the women's soccer team concluded the regular season. Washington College outshot them in both halves, in total leading the shot count 7-4.

The Mules had a tough schedule last week, losing to another formidable conference opponent, Swarthmore, 3-0. The defense kept them scoreless in the first half, but three second half goals put the game out of reach. Swarthmore, the defending conference champions, came into the game in second place in the Centennial Conference. Still, goalie Libby Juliano '20 had an outstanding performance, saving 13 shots during the contest, a career high. Yet, with those two losses, the team failed to qualify for both the Centennial Conference tournament and the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) tournament, and the Mules have not reached the conference playoffs since 2014.

The squad's season ending record sits at a respectable 6-8-2 overall. However, the Mules improved upon their 2017 campaign in which they went 5-8-4 overall.

Despite the abrupt end to the season, the Women accomplished some impressive feats under first year coach Kelly Wakeman. Wakeman and the Mules showed they could thrive in hostile environments, as they had a winning record on the road, posting a 4-3-2 record, a huge improvement upon their 1-7-2 road record last year.

Last year, longtime Coach Leslie Benintend retired as head coach after 23 stellar seasons with the Mules that saw them win 2 Centennial Conference titles, second to only John's Hopkins during that time. Her 228 wins and 11 conference playoff appearances are the most in Muhlenberg history. The adjustment period to having a new coach has not appeared to slow the team down. Alex Franchino '21, was optimistic about her team's future. "We are learning to gel as a unit. Our mantra is 'control us' which means we only focus on what we can do to win and we don't worry about the outside factors," she said. She attributed the team's improvement to team bonding. "We did something really fun called locker buddies, where we all gave anonymous gifts to our assigned teammates. It brought us closer together."

Franchino also gave credit to Meghan MacAskill '19, Makenzie O′Brien '19 and Sarah Theurer '19made for bringing the team closer together. "We're going to miss them a lot, they are great leaders and great friends. They are the glue to our lasting relationships."

The team unity along with an improved record with a rookie head coach, is reason for optimism for the future of the team. With only three team members graduating, they will have more time to gel and could be a contender for the conference title next year. Their leading goal scorers, Danni Steigerwald '20 and Mia Mulin '21 are returning next year, along with Juliano, who is returning after an excellent season in which she recorded 84 saves and posted an .832 save percentage. The team believes there shouldn't be any limit to what they can accomplish next year, and expectations are sure to be sky high.

Running through the rain

By Matt Riebesell
Managing Editor

Damp and chilly air rushed through the herd of racers at Haverford College participating in the Centennial Conference Championship meet.

Muhlenberg's runners decided to embrace the challenging setting - temperatures in the low 50s and rain misting through the air.

"The conditions were not good at all, the course was a mess," said Brad Hackett, Muhlenberg's director of Cross Country and Track & Field. "Neither the men nor women′s teams allowed the weather to get to them. Both teams went out and gave it all they had." Hackett said the day reminded him of "old-time cross country".

Along with the weather, Haverford's course featured four loops around the perimeter of the campus, further wearing down the ground as athletes stirred up the terrain with every stride.

Battling the course earned both Muhlenberg's men's and women's teams fifth place finishes.

Headlining the pack for the women were Santina Zourus '20 and Marielle Avola '22 who finished within four seconds of each other and earning twenty-third and twenty-fourth place, respectively.

"Once the gun went off, the rain and cold weren′t really a concern. It was actually fun to run on the muddy course," said Avola. "It took a little more out of you, especially going uphill. Everyone′s legs were covered in mud by the end of the race."

The Lady Mules finished the six kilometer race with a 140 points - closer to third place as a team (100) than sixth (181) because of the top-heavy field.

"We are in an extremely competitive conference in cross country with several nationally ranked teams, and I think our student athletes represented the program very well," said Hackett.

Mules Jason Richwall '20 and Corey Mullins '19 finished in the top twenty in the Conference. Richwall's thirteenth place finish earned All-Centennial Conference second team honors. Mullins rounded out his Centennial Conference cross country career never finishing outside of the top 20 places.

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

The women′s cross country team finished in 5th place at the conference championships.

"I can safely say that was the muddiest race I have ever ran. It was extremely challenging, but also fun in some twisted way," said Richwall. "We knew the times would be slow with the mud puddles everywhere and numerous spots of zero traction. It was a great day to test ourselves against good competition," he added to summarize the day.

"Taking 13th behind only members from nationally ranked teams was hopefully a sign of things to come," said Richwall on his performance. "As far as time, running only four seconds slower than my personal best was as good as I could have hoped for considering the conditions."

Richwall was quick to mention how he and Mullins compliment and challenge each other when preparing for competitions. The two also share similar goals. "Corey and I are pushing each other up front. He has qualified for nationals the past two years and is looking to do so again this year, and hopefully I can go along with him."

Running at the Main Line Invitational was a key part of the preparation for the championship race. The Main Line, hosted by Haverford "was a great way to familiarize ourselves with Haverford's course," said Richwall. Avola agreed, saying that the coaches have been training both the men's and women's teams "hard and smart" this season. She added, "having done some really strong workouts gave us all a sense of confidence and preparedness going into the meet."

Looking forward, the Mules runners will travel to DeSales on Nov. 10 to race in the Mideast NCAA Regional where runners can qualify for the NCAA Nationals. The best of the best among Division III meet at the National Championship meet in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Mullins is the only active member on the men's or women's team with experience running at a cross country national meet.

"I think that we have several people with a chance to make it to the NCAA championship as individuals," said Hackett.

"In the couple weeks before regionals and I′m sure we will continue to train hard, we have put in the work and built up a strong base," said Avola. "Now it's all about maintaining and staying healthy."

from **Field Hockey** page 9

more wins against conference opponents. They finished with an overall 9-7 record and a conference record of 8-2, placing fourth in the Centennial Conference standings.

Moving forward, the Lady Mules will be entering the Centennial Conference Tournament as the fourth seed. Their first matchup will be against Dickinson at Scotty Wood Stadium on the evening of Oct. 31 at 7:00 pm. The Mules last faced Dickinson at the beginning of their conference schedule, capturing a close victory that ended in a shootout. The final score ended up being 2-1, with a game-winning score coming from Rydgren. The Red Devils finished fifth in the Centennial Conference on the year, with a 5-5 in conference record and a 6-11 record overall.

The winner of the matchup will advance to the next round of the tournament and face the number one overall seed, Franklin & Marshall. Franklin & Marshall finished with an astounding 9-1 in-conference record, and an overall 15-2 record on the year. Though a conference powerhouse and a tough matchup for any team in the tournament, the Mules should be optimistic if they end up facing them, as they dealt the Diplomats their only conference loss of the season. The final score was 1-0, with Rydgren supplying the only goal. If they were to advance from this round, they would go on to face the winner of the second and third seed matchup in the championship of the tournament. These teams are second, Johns Hopkins, and third, Ursinus. The Mules took back to back losses to these teams earlier on in the season, but since ended the season on a five-game winning streak.

"We are in it to win it. The Centennial Conference is a tough conference no doubt, but it can be anyone's game on any given day. It's whatever team shows up to play that day. I think as a team we know what we need to do to win and we are ready to bring it," Jordan Segrave '19 said.

FROM **VOLLEYBALL** PAGE 9

as Gettysburg fell to Johns Hopkins, the same team that took out the Garnets in the finals the past two years.

For the season finale, the crew headed to Washington College for one last conference clash. Entering the Oct. 27 match, the Mules were in the midst of a three way tie for third place in the conference. That tie would be broken following this final game. Once again, the ladies displayed their excellence as they were able to leave as victors after three sets, which marked their eighth sweep of the year. Shannon Hubert ‘19, with 28 assists, raised her season total to 1,006, short of her last season total of 1,027. Hubert has become the only player in volleyball’s history with two 1,000 assist seasons.

“Our last three wins have definitely been a confidence boost for us. We′ve proven to ourselves throughout the season that we can reach our peak playing ability and so I think going into the playoffs, we need to believe that we are that great team,” said Erica Schultz ‘19 when assessing how the Mules’ late season dominance can ultimately translate further into postseason success.

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Mules volleyball makes the playoff for the fifth season in the past six years. The last time Muhlenberg won the Centennial Conference Championships was in 2005.

After entering the playoffs last year as the third seed and with an early first round exit at the hands of the current three seed, Swarthmore, the Mules are set to make another run at attaining a championship. It was made clear what the problems were the previous year and what needs happen to ensure a different result this time around.

“We struggled with our consistency. Either we didn′t start the game strong and have to work hard to come back or we start out strong and let up a little at the end of the game, letting other teams make a come back. We are a very good team, but our lack of consistency is often why we struggle against other good teams. I think this year we have to go in with the mindset that we are good enough to win and that in order to win we have to fight for every point,” Schultz said.

The group begins their quest as the fifth seed, when the opening round gets started on Halloween, Wednesday, Oct. 31 as they take on McDaniel College, the fourth seed and host of the contest. After struggling against McDaniel earlier in the year, the team does not want to make the same mistakes. “When we played McDaniel, we just couldn′t adapt quick enough. They read us very well and were able to pick on our weaknesses and capitalize on our tendencies,” said Schultz. “This time around, I think we need to set the tone of the game early and take the momentum. If we can adapt to the game and find their weaknesses earlier we will have much more success.”

Maintaining a winning mindset

By Alex Horowitz
Senior Staff Writer

They say all good things must eventually come to and end. Unfortunately for the Mules, the end to their previously undefeated season came on Saturday afternoon in Baltimore, MD.

Despite a valiant comeback effort in the second half, the Muhlenberg football team was handed its first loss of the 2018 season by Johns Hopkins University, by a score of 27-16. The Mules trailed 21-0 at halftime, not looking like the dominant offense that had won ten consecutive games dating back to last season and has torn through Centennial Conference play since the beginning of this season. However, they played much better football in the second half, and despite ending up on the losing end, they definitely made it a much more competitive game in the last 30 minutes, outscoring the Blue Jays 16-6 in the half.

“We really just went into halftime and realized that we weren′t playing Muhlenberg football, so we made sure that when we came out in the second half we would play our brand of physical football,” said running back James Diggs, ‘21, who ran the ball 10 times for 32 total yards on the ground.

The loss to a Hopkins squad that entered the game with one loss on the season definitely was not the result the Mules were looking for. However, instead of feeling disappointed and dejected over the loss, the team plans to use their loss as motivation for next week and throughout the remainder of the season. This optimistic approach to the season has been consistent throughout the entire football program all season, which is a primary reason for their position at the top of the Centennial Conference standings.

“This past weeks loss against Hopkins will help us, I believe, moving forward,” said quarterback Michael Hnatkowsky, ‘21, who threw for 278 yards and a touchdown, despite also throwing four interceptions. “It was a tough game and one that we felt we did not play our best in and that is what stings the most. We will bounce back and play hard for these next two weeks and whatever we are given after that.”

Now that perhaps the most anticipated game of the team’s schedule has come and gone, the team will turn its attention to its upcoming game against the Gettysburg Bullets, which also marks the final home game of the Muhlenberg regular season. With a number other than zero now staring at them in the loss column, it might be easy for the team to put the immense amount of pressure of being undefeated behind themselves as they continue fighting for playoff and bowl consideration. However, like it’s been all season long, the team is going into this game with the same winning mindset as always, with the goal of playing, as the players like to simply put it, ‘Muhlenberg football.’

“We treat each game no different then the previous. We are going to go out and play this game like we played the first game and every game after that,” said Ryan Curtiss, ‘20, who caught three passes for 36 yards in the loss in Baltimore. “There is pressure for us to win to be able to have a chance for the playoffs, but we will not overthink it. We will play our game like usual.”

Hnatkowsky added that although each game on the schedule is important, the team is just going to focus on one game at a time in order to optimize the chances of success for the football program.

“I think we have done a good job really not looking too far ahead this season and really treating each game with much importance,” said the Sophomore signal caller. “I expect that we will continue this and we will just worry about Gettysburg this weekend and then focus on Moravian the following week. As the season grows, the games start to mean more, but I feel that we do a good job as a whole team just staying within ourselves.”

When it comes down to wins and losses, the Mules have definitely proven to be one of the top teams in NCAA Division III football throughout this season. However, what most do not see aside from the scoreboard and the standings is an intangible quality called leadership. No matter the result of each game, the Mules have maintained a marvelous leadership quality spanning everyone in the football program. The players take pride in being there for each other, both on and off the field, and they are truly positive models of what it means to be a Muhlenberg student-athlete.

“Everyone on the team respects each other not only as teammates but as brothers,” said Diggs. “We feel like football is one big brotherhood that respects everyone on campus for who they are and what they represent the same way that we respect each other. It′s an honor to be able to be a part of something as special as the Muhlenberg football team and representing the program each and every time we suit up.”

The quarterback of the team, usually regarded as the go-to leader of a football program, nonetheless recognizes the importance of playing team football and embracing the team culture of the school’s football program. After all, when the games are done and the scoreboard is shut off, it’s one’s teammates that will always be there for them no matter the results on the field.

“Being a football player at Muhlenberg College is truly special,” says Hnatkowsky, the Mules starting quarterback since 2017. “We are given great opportunities as students to receive a great education and then we follow that up by receiving great coaching and mentoring by our peers. We all learn from each other in every aspect of life. We learn how to do things the right way and the older guys throughout my time here so far have done a great job really emphasizing what is right and what is wrong. This team I feel has been so successful because of this and because we really treat each other like brothers. We demand a lot from each other and this is what I have noticed about this team. We get on each other about doing the right thing and we know when to get on somebody when they did wrong and know when to help someone up when they are down. Being part of this team is truly a special experience.”

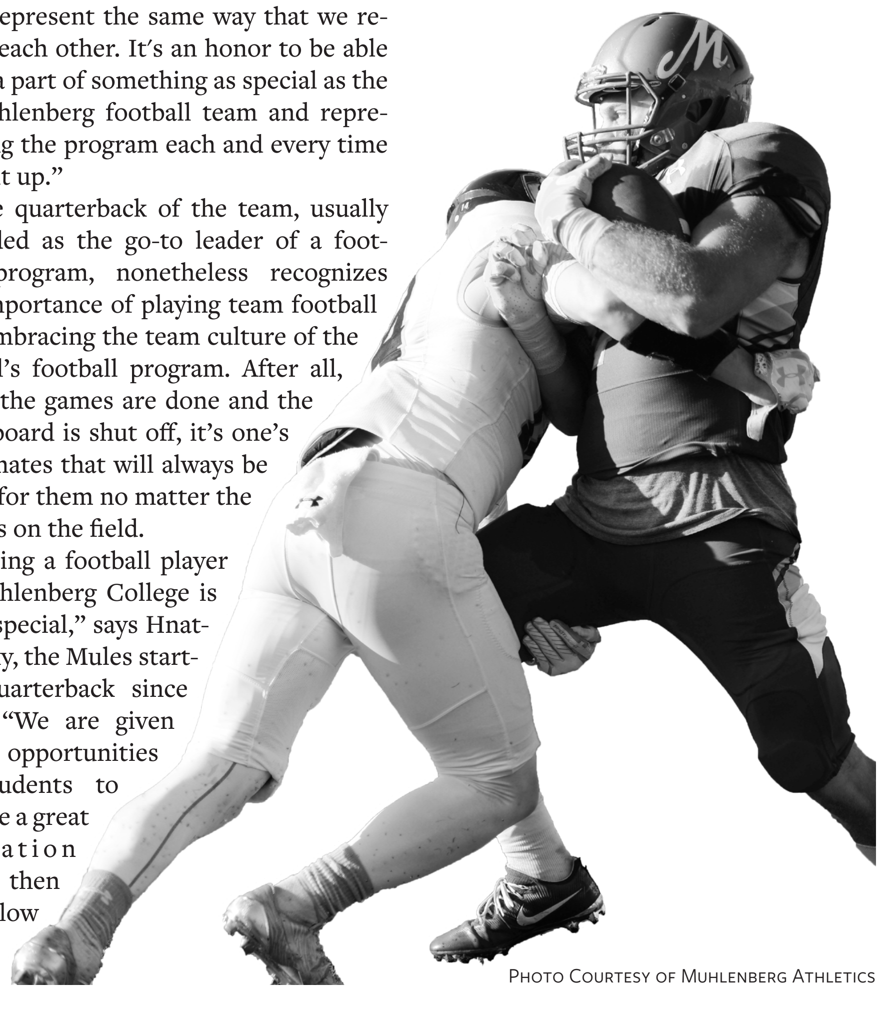


Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

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THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

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“Redefining” gender under Trump admin.

Muhlenberg reacts to leaked Department of Health and Human Services memo

GENDER NEUTRAL

By Cynthia Silva
Contributing Writer

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has called for government agencies to establish a single definition of gender, according to a memo leaked to the New York Times. The memo seems to favor defining gender as a biological characteristic that is determined at birth.

Days after the memo was leaked, President John Williams expressed his grievances. He assured the College’s stance on gender identity as continuing to be protected when it comes to students, faculty and staff. The College, “will continue to maintain our commitment to enhancing our campus community as an inclusive space that effectively supports transgender and gender non-binary individuals,” wrote President Williams in his email.

However, if the HHS definition were to be adopted, this change would exclude transgender and gender nonconforming people from the protections under Title IX, the federal law that prohibits sex discrimination in schools. That means it could affect how schools that are federally funded protect transgender students. It could limit the position schools would have to take in funding gender-neutral bathrooms.

Lin-Chi Wang, Associate Dean of Students and Director of Equity and Title IX, wants to remind students of the advantages of attending a private college.

“The federal laws are a floor–it’s a floor for what we have to protect so we can choose to protect more than is required. We want to do that in a very intentional and careful and thoughtful way,” said Wang.

Last semester, the College created a diversity strategic plan that included plans to add more gender-neutral bathrooms on campus. There are currently 17 gender-neutral bathrooms, and this plan would continue the effort to, “make Muhlenberg as equitable and inclusive as possible,” said Dean of Students Allison Gulati earlier this year.

As chair of the committee in charge of creating more gender-neutral bathrooms, Dean Gulati wants students to know that the College has been productive.

“Multiple academic and residence hall projects have been identified and we are currently working on designs, pricing and communication plans for those projects,” wrote Dean Gulati.

However, only one bathroom has been added since April, which has discouraged some students.

“There seems to be a little bit of feet-dragging,” said Kieva Mark ‘20, secretary of Muhlenberg Transgender Advocacy Coalition (MTAC) and co-president of Students for Queer Advocacy (SQuAd). Beyond the strategic plan, little action has been taken by the administration.

However, Mark has found comfort in MTAC and SQuAd. Created five years ago, MTAC has been a safe space that fosters support for students on the transgender spectrum. Though SQuAd shares the same values, it supports all LGBTQ+ students and has been focusing more on advocacy this semester. Combined, these two groups have given students a space where they feel they can be supported and another where they can create action–it’s a dynamic that appears to be helping club members involved with both groups.

After the HHS memo leaked, an anonymous student expressed how being in both MTAC and SQuAd allowed her time to cope.

“I needed to be able to process before I act. Having someone already acting and taking that up has helped me feel like it’s not my sole responsibility and that other people will take up action,” said the student.

For other students, gender-neutral bathrooms are important in cultivating a safe environment.

Another anonymous student who is choosing to go by Em describes themselves as transgender, specifically genderqueer. For Em, having gender-neutral bathrooms is important because, “it’s very affirming that there are places you belong and there’s not this sort of sequestering that’s frankly unnecessary.”

When Em found out about the number of gender-neutral bathrooms on campus, she was very surprised as there were hardly any in the academic buildings.

“Even if they are spaces where other genderqueer might frequent, somehow it’s not accessible for everyone,” said Em.

“There’s this constant pressure that you also have to assimilate to an environment where you feel unwelcome, which just makes all these other things that is so difficult about being a college student that much harder,” said Em.

In response to this memo, clubs like SQuAD are taking initiative.

“What has happened has been pretty much solely student-driven,” said Mark.

As recently as last week, the advocacy group drafted an email template that could be sent out to candidates who are currently running for elections or current representatives encouraging them to actively take a stance against the memo.

But students still feel there should be more action from the college administration. As a private institution, Muhlenberg College has the advantage to foster inclusivity and foster a more welcoming environment for all students.

“There is an important distinction between showing solidarity in support and making a plan for direct action,” said Mark.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

Monday, October 29
Emergency phone check - 2:29 a.m.
In East Hall there was a report of a call from an emergency phone. Upon arrival no one was in the area.

Alcohol violation - 12:44 p.m.
On Albright Street, there was a report of possession of drug paraphernalia and marijuana and an alcohol violation. Items were brought to Campus Safety and placed in the evidence locker. The issue was referred to Dean of Students office.

Lost property - 4:30 p.m.
In Trumbower there was a report of a lost cell phone.

Emergency phone check - 11:35 p.m.
On Chew Street there was a report of call from emergency phone, upon arrival no one was in the area.

Tuesday, October 30
Theft - 12:00 a.m.
In Parents Plaza there was a report of theft of a banner. The banner was later returned.

Sick student - 6:51 a.m.
In Walz Hall there was a report of a sick student. Muhlenberg EMS responded and the individual was transported to the hospital.

Injured student - 9:34 p.m.
In East Hall there was a report of an injured student. Muhlenberg EMS responded and individual was transported to the hospital.

Wednesday, October 31
Sick student - 5:41 a.m.
In Brown Hall there was a report of a sick student. Student refused further treatment or transport.

Thursday, November 1
Odor investigation - 12:00 a.m.
On Gordon Street there was a report of the smell of marijuana. Individuals were identified and spoken to and the investigation will continue.

Friday, November 2
Injured student - 9:52 p.m.
In Trexler Pavilion there was a report of an injured student. Muhlenberg EMS responded. The individual refused further treatment or transport.

Fire alarm - 11:50 p.m.
In Alpha Tau Omega house there was a report of a fire alarm possibly from use of fog machine. The Allentown fire department responded. The system was silenced and reset.

Saturday, November 3
Fire alarm - 5:35 a.m.
In Moyer Hall there was a report of a fire alarm from steam from CO2 detectors. Allentown fire department responded and plant operations was notified.

Fire alarm - 8:45 p.m.
On Leh Street there was a report of fire alarm from burnt food. The system was silenced and reset.

Vandalism - 9:06 p.m.
In Walz/Brown area there was a report of a discharged fire extinguisher. No suspects at this time.

Fire Alarm 9:39 p.m.
In ATO/Hillcrest lot there was a report of fire alarm, possibly from bonfire. Allentown fire department responded. The system was silenced and reset.

Sunday, November 4
Alcohol violation - 1:20 a.m.
In Brown Hall there was a report of alcohol violation. Muhlenberg EMS responded and Cetronia Ambulance responded. The student was transported to the hospital.

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Wescoe School to offer post-graduate programs

By Sarah Dolan
Staff Writer

This past spring, the Muhlenberg College Board of Trustees and faculty approved a plan to expand the Wescoe School to offer graduate certificates and degrees. The first programs to be offered will be a Certificate in Data Analytics, as well as a Master's Degree in Data Analytics. While the school is pending approval from its accrediting agency, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, it plans to offer the programs sometime during the 2019-2020 academic year.

Although the purpose of the Wescoe School is to serve adult learners, it has never before offered postgraduate programs for its students. This new addition marks a change in the educational requirements of the professional world.

"Today, Continuing Education that includes graduate level certificates and Master's Degrees makes up the portfolio of offerings needed to serve and support this growing market of learners," says Jane Hudak, Dean of the Wescoe School.

The first programs to be offered, a Certificate or Master's in Data Analytics, stem from the advice of Lehigh Valley businesses.

"We had heard from some local business partners that there was an increasing need for employees with Data Analytics skills," notes Hudak. "We worked with representatives from different industry sectors (banking, energy, healthcare, insurance, manufacturing, etc.) who spent a significant amount of time providing feedback to help us design the curriculum."

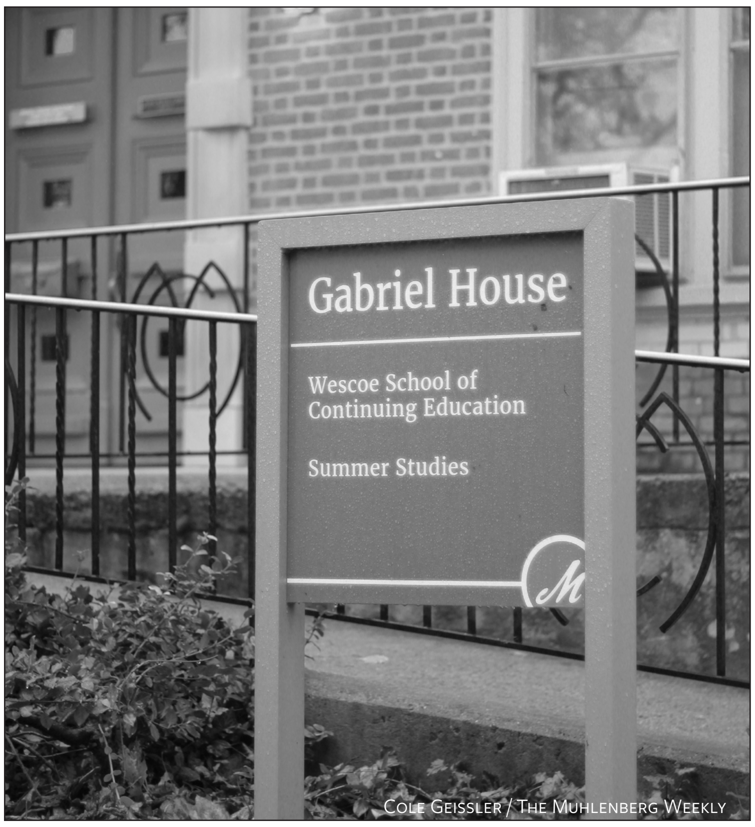
In the future, Wescoe hopes to offer a business-related Master's Degree that "builds upon the strengths of the college," according to Hudak. This will likely be a program in Organizational Leadership, which "builds on our work in Arts and Non-Profit Management, as well as our Healthcare and Human Resources Management programs," Hudak continues. "The workforce is changing; many people seek a different degree than the typical MBA. We will focus on leadership in organizations, and I imagine topics such as social responsibility and ethics, [as well as] managing a diverse workforce to be broad areas of focus."

While Wescoe hopes to further expand its offering of postgraduate programs, it does not plan to offer graduate degrees or certifications in every discipline. "We are a small liberal arts college, not a university," states Hudak. "We wish to pursue a select number of graduate degrees and certificates through the Wescoe School that serve our community—while maintaining our liberal arts mission as our core focus."

As this branch of the college grows, it may require a large space to house the entire department. However, they plan to stay put for the time being.

"For the near future, the Wescoe administration will stay in our current building. As we grow, it will be necessary to find a larger space to keep the group together" says Hudak.

Overall, this expansion will serve Wescoe students, as well as full-time Muhlenberg undergrads looking toward the future. While some programs will appeal to working professionals, others will attract Muhlenberg graduates looking to further their education, should a program in their discipline be offered.



Cole Geissler / The Muhlenberg Weekly

The Gabriel House contains the Wescoe School of Continuing Education.

Taking Title IX to trial

Understanding the resources available when reporting sexual misconduct on campus

By Sydney Coplin
News Editor

In 1972, Title IX of the Education Amendments was enacted by Congress and signed into law by President Richard Nixon. Title IX protects individuals from sex-based discrimination, which extends to issues of sexual misconduct because "when a student has experienced a hostile environment such sexual assault or severe, pervasive and objectively offensive sexual harassment, schools must stop the discrimination, prevent its recurrence, and address its effects," according to Endrapeoncampus.org.

Title IX is an integral part of our education system, especially at the college and university level where they have a legal responsibility to protect students' rights. At Muhlenberg, these protections are addressed throughout the Student Code of Conduct, the Campus Safety Annual Security Report and the Equal Opportunity and Nondiscrimination Policy, just to name a few of the documents.

"Every school has to have a procedure for handling complaints under Title IX," explains Dean of Students Allison Gulati. "[They] look very similar, but there are small nuances that are different depending on your school."

Gulati points out one particular distinction that Muhlenberg has in place, where gender expression is protected at the college level but not necessarily at the federal level. This means that Title IX prohibits discrimination based on gender-identity here on campus, but those same protections are much more ambiguous elsewhere, and are not always clearly defined.

"There is nothing more important than the health and safety of our students."

There are also countless offices and administrators at Muhlenberg dedicated to promoting and protecting the rights that we have under Title IX. This summer, the college hired a new Director of Equity and Title IX, Lin-Chi Wang.

"Generally, I oversee and respond to reports and conduct related to discrimination and harassment based on protected categories under the College's Student Code of Conduct, Sexual and Gender-Based Misconduct Policy, Statement on Discriminatory Harassment and Hate/Bias Policy at the College to ensure equal opportunity for all students and employees," said Wang in The Muhlenberg Weekly article from Sept. 13.

Wang works alongside many other administrators, such as Gulati and Assistant Dean of Students and Student Conduct Officer Jane Schubert. Gulati and Schubert specifically work with students, faculty and staff in the cases of incidents that fall under Title IX.

"Under our current procedures, if someone comes forward with a complaint, that complaint is initially reviewed by our Director of Title IX and Equity and our Director of Campus Safety," says Gulati, explaining that while there used to be a division in policies between students who come forward and faculty and staff that come forward, "in the new procedures, they will be very parallel to one another," adds Gulati. In other words, students, faculty and staff are now covered under one policy.

The college utilizes very specific language pertaining to the individuals involved in an investigation, where the accuser is known as the "complainant" and the accused is known as the "respondent," as indicated by both Gulati and Schubert.

Following the initial review by the preliminary departments, if an investigation is warranted, an investigator will then be assigned to conduct fact-finding, or confirming whether or not there has been a Title IX offense, explains Gulati.

"At that point Lin-Chi Wang would meet with both the person who is bringing forth the complaint as well as the person who has been accused and they would both be given a notice of their rights and a notice of investigation that explains what is going to happen in that process," notes Gulati. "They would be able to name witnesses and others that should be interviewed, then that investigative process begins. We would also at that meeting with each of those people talking about interim measures."

"Retaliation against an individual who takes any action under this EO Policy is prohibited."

These interim measures are put in place in order to protect the individuals involved in an investigation. Potential interim measures may include anything from having students change classes to temporary suspensions, especially if there is a greater threat to the wider community, as outlined by the 2018 Campus Safety Annual Security report.

Once the investigation is complete, the investigator reports back to Wang and the Student Conduct Office. If a Title IX violation does occur, Schubert begins guiding students through the trial.

Schubert explains that individuals involved are provided with an advisor, either one trained through the college or an advisor of their choice. The advisor will act as a support system throughout the trial.

"If it does move forward, the hearing board will consist of a faculty chair, a college administrator, and two students," says Schubert. She also mentions that the complainant and the respondent both have to agree to have students involved in the trial.

"If one [either the complainant or the respondent] says no, then students are not involved. Instead, there would be two administrators" adds Schubert.

Gulati also points out that "the board goes through extensive training."

In terms of the hearing, there are specific measures in place to maintain the privacy of all parties involved.

"The respondent does not have to be in the room. There are several different procedures that they have that keeps them com-

see **Title IX** page 4

FROM **TITLE IX** PAGE 3

fortable going throughout the process," explains Schubert. "The respondent does not question the complainant, it's done through the hearing board chair; there is no direct contact between the two."

Ultimately the goal of the hearing board is for them to figure out if the respondent is responsible for what may have happened.

"If they decide they are responsible, they then recommend sanctions and all of that information comes to me for a final decision, and then once that decision is made and communicated, students have the right to appeal," says Gulati.

The Student Code of Conduct states three grounds for appeal, including "that a material procedural error occurred that had the reasonable potential of affecting the decisions; that material new evidence exists that was not available prior to or at the time of the hearing and had the reasonable potential of affecting the decisions; and/or that the sanctions) imposed are unduly harsh."

Ultimately, the college strives for a fair and equal trial in all cases.

"There is nothing more important than the health and safety of our students. As it relates to sexual misconduct, that is an issue that we take of the utmost seriousness" explains Gulati. "We are going to be adamant about our policies and procedures and the protections that they provide. Providing fair process to everyone involved, both the accused and the respondents."

Overall, the college strives for a fair and equal trial in all cases.

This dedication to a fair trial also extends beyond the respondent and complainant; it includes the witnesses too.

"If you are accused of a violation of our code, there are people who can provide fair information about your whereabouts, under the law they would be required to share that information and that's true under our policy as well," says Gulati, noting the necessity for witnesses in these trials. "If you are a witness to something and have information that could either support the complainant or the respondent, then you are required under our code to provide that information. We will do everything that we can to offer protection."

Gulati also mentions the fact that the college has a strict retaliation policy in place, where "only people in that room will be privy to that information."

"Retaliation against an individual who takes any action under this EO Policy is prohibited," according to the newly revised Equal Opportunity and Nondiscrimination Policy. "It is central to the values of this College that any individual who believes they may have been the target of prohibited discrimination or harassment feels free to report their concerns for appropriate investigation and response, without fear of retaliation or retribution."

"Anytime a student has concerns about the process or their participation in it, they can meet with Lin-Chi Wang to discuss and get clarification on these things (which students often do)," mentions Gulati.

"Parties have the right to identify witnesses and the investigator has discretion to determine if a witness has relevant information," explains Wang. "Sometimes, the investigator will not know if a witness has relevant information until the investigator meets and speaks with the witness."

Wang also adds that there can be a possibility for only one identified witness, although that is not common in her experience.

"A witness typically will not know if and what other witnesses have been identified in an investigation. The amount of information disclosed to a witness is limited to what a witness needs to know in order to provide relevant information," says Wang.

"Regardless of the number of witnesses, if a witness requests anonymity, there will be a balancing assessment conducted. We have to ensure that the parties are afforded a fair process in which they can fully understand and respond to all of the relevant information being considered, and that typically cannot happen unless the parties know the identity of the witness(es)," Wang also adds. "Ensuring the parties′ right in that respect will be balanced against any imminent threat or danger to the well-being of the witness."

Nonetheless, "a witness is expected to participate and cooperate with an investigation and the hearing board process; however, a witness cannot be compelled to speak," explains Wang.

Additional reporting by Chloe Gravereaux

WMUH tunes in to talk radio

By Rachel Brodsky
Contributing Writer

On Sept. 26 at 3:00 p.m., Muhlenberg's radio station 91.7 WMUH aired an interview with Irish playwright Marina Carrr, who is most well known for her play "By the Bog of the Cats" written in 1998. Typically, WMUH shows consist of DJs who play music and speak in between songs, but the station hopes to have talk shows and discussions implemented regularly in the future.

"The idea ... is to strengthen ties between the college and community through sharing information about the happenings on campus."

"The interview was a conversation between Alec Marsh and David Rosenwasser, professors in the English department and playwright Marina Carr. They talked about her work and influences," says WMUH station manager Paul Krempasky. He adds that the interview was about one hour and 15 minutes but edited down to 55 minutes. No music was played during this session.

"The idea behind the interview and informational programming on WMUH is to strengthen ties between the college and community through sharing information about the happenings on campus," Krempasky adds. "I would like to devote a time slot each week to Muhlenberg focused content. Right now, we are also working with Student Engagement to present a monthly show focused on upcoming campus events."

Before the interview with Carr, Krempasky reached out to Linda Miller, coordinator of the Living Writing Series here at Muhlenberg, in hopes that he could air presentations to help promote the series.

"After the meeting, we came up with a plan to do a series of shows that would introduce the authors, and, when possible, interview the authors when on campus," says Krempasky.

The station has had the opportunity to interview both Carr and American poet Ada Limon. In order to ensure the best content, multiple DJs at the station sit in on the interview and work together to create a well-produced piece to be aired on a later date.

"We get the interviewer(s) and authors to come to WMUH and sit in the production studio. Someone acts as an engineer to record the discussion. After the session, there is editing needed to make sure the program flows and fits the time available," says Krempasky. "For each hour session we produce, there can be up to five hours of production time needed."

Krempasky also explains that students have the opportunity to participate in this process. As more Muhlenberg centered segments are being developed, students are able to be involved as writers, producers, engineers and talent. Presidents of on-campus clubs may be interviewed and if they happen to a part of WMUH already, they can edit their own content to guarantee all vital information is being aired and all individuals are being accurately portrayed in the interview.

WMUH
91.7 fm
on air

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Office of Communications

WMUH celebrated it's 70th anniversary this year with an exhibit in Trexler Library.

"Throughout the years, WMUH has produced and presented similar programming and incorporated interviews and discussions into other programming," says Krempasky. "Perhaps the longest continuous programming of this type is Art News, hosted by community staff member Maxx Foxx since the mid 80s, with a focus on arts and culture throughout the Lehigh Valley."

Although there are not many talk shows on air currently, past shows still continue to be successful and more interviews are in the works.

WMUH also aired two Muhlenberg focused programs on Oct. 10, 2018. At 9:30 a.m., Ellen Lentine and Steve Dutton of Student Engagement talked about activities, issues and policies for Muhlenberg Students. They were joined by Jeff Varrone for an update from the Office of Community Engagement. At 3:00 p.m. that same day, as part of ongoing programming associated with the 2018 Living Writers Series, Marsh and Rosenwasser discussed the work of Ben Lerner. This program was a introduction the Lerner′s novel.

Tune in to 91.7 WMUH to find out what is planned for the next few weeks on campus.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

/ARTS&CULTURE

> "You use a glass mirror to see your face; you use works of art to see your soul."
>
> —George Bernard Shaw

Brigadoon brings Broadway's "golden age" to the Empie Theatre stage

Read on 7

Devising a community in the theatre department

By Sophia Richter
Contributing Writer

With a few exceptions, Muhlenberg theatre tends to lean towards the more traditional. While we have been seeing a departure in the types of productions featured in the theatre department and Muhlenberg Theatre Association's seasons, there have been limited classes offered on campus that teach students how to create alternative styles of work. In fact, the phrase "devised theatre" is foreign to many Muhlenberg theatre students. Devised theatre is a mode of creating a piece typically involving collaboration and improvisation from an ensemble.

Leticia Robles-Moreno and Matt Moore, both theatre professors, decided to create a class unlike one that Muhlenberg has ever offered after realizing that their approaches to performance studies and devised theatre were similar and that their differing cultural backgrounds could work in tandem to offer students a different kind of engagement with theatre. The class combines an education in devised theatre, participation in community engagement and culminates in the creation of a piece in the spring semester. The professors were also awarded three grants to fund their research and ultimately that of their students as well.

In order to provide some insight on the creation of this class, I interviewed the collaborators behind Devising Community.

What made you decide to create this class?

LRM: The idea for the class came from a conversation that Matt and I had in an event organized by FCT [the Faculty Center for Teaching]. We realized that we both wanted to teach a class on devising theatre focused on community engagement and to collaborate with people from the Allentown community. In my case, a huge inspiration is the Peruvian theatre group Yuyachkani - these performers and activists have taught me that theatre can go beyond the physical space of a building and can be transformative and relevant in current struggles for social justice.

MM: I've wanted to teach a class that focused on group devising since I came back to Muhlenberg. I think the number one challenge facing students here is how to develop a relationship to the Lehigh Valley. Muhlenberg has always been an isolating environment, despite the great work happening at OCE [the Office of Community Engagement] and in several other classes. I thought it was time to join the push to get students off campus.

How did you choose the overarching topic of the class?

MM: These are my two major convictions: that theatre need not reproduce the hierarchies inherent in our social structures and that theatre is a mode of community making. I wanted to lead students in a process that could reveal the essential truth of these two claims.

Why now?

LRM: One of the oppressive tools of totalitarian regimes is to make you believe that you are alone, that there is no possibility of working together, that you better mind your own business and let someone else ... make decisions for you. No way! One of the first lessons you learn in doing theatre is to respect your ensemble members, to listen to different ideas and to be a productive part of a collaborative effort. The world is a crazy place right now and devising theatre is a reminder that there is still a lot to do and that we can work together to speak out and to have an impact (as tiny or as big as it comes) in our community.

MM: Perhaps every moment is right for this work, but now seems especially devoid of hope. Social separations seem especially deep and unbridgeable. Art-making seems more commercially controlled. We wanted to give our students an opportunity to explore a process that privileges discovery, difference, risk-taking and collaboration over the normalized imperatives of aesthetic concerns and box office sales.

How did the department react to your proposal?

LRM: The department of Theatre & Dance supports the class and the spring project! Our department aims to help our students to become artists and thinkers (and doers!), and the core value of the theatre program is collaboration. I think a class like this was just waiting to happen, and Matt and I met at the right moment and the right place to make it happen.

MM: Many of us already make and believe in this work. Now that it′s becoming more popular (and students are asking for such experiences); we are all looking for opportunities to weave it into our curriculum.

What are your hopes for this class?

LRM: I hope that our students leave the class open to collaboration and community engagement. Most of them are going to leave Allentown when they graduate; but wherever they go to work, I hope they have the tools to create their own projects and their own language. Apart from this, my personal goal is to make this class and the project that comes with it sustainable. I hope we can teach different iterations of this class every year so that we create a solid relationship with community partners through theatre and the arts.

MM: I want to send students out into the world full of the feeling that they can make their own work – that they need not rely on ″the industry″ to provide them with opportunities. I also want them to feel like theatre-making matters to people.

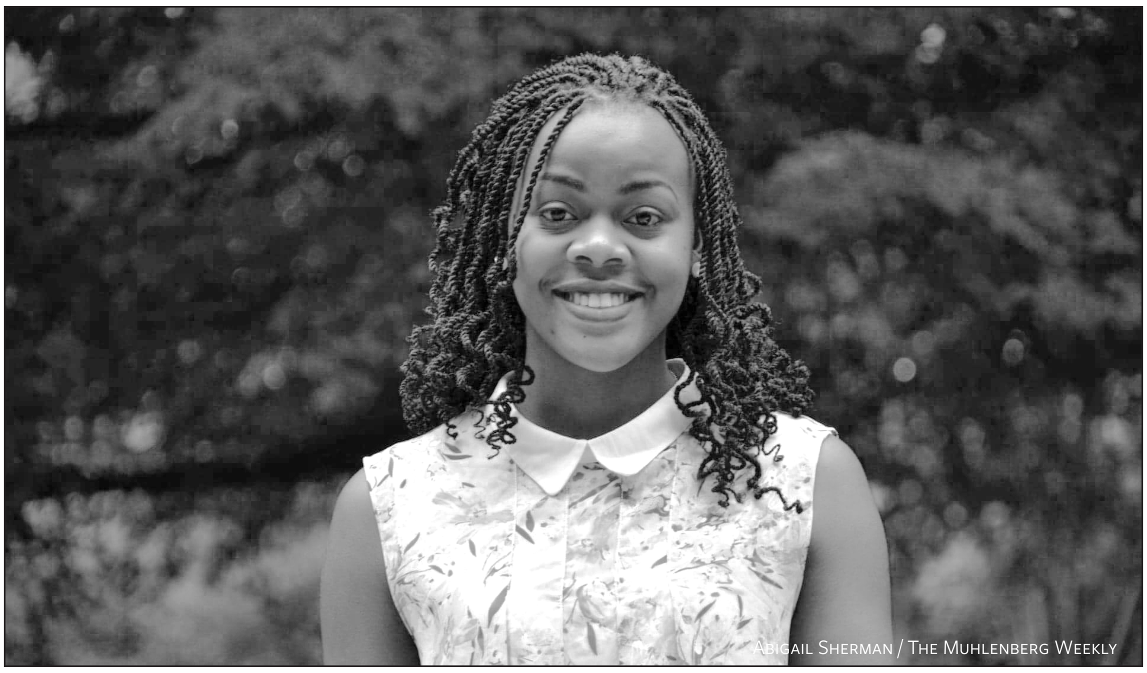
What would the ideal end result look like for you?

LRM: I have no idea! This is the scary (and magical) part of devising theatre! But whatever the result looks like, the only thing I am sure of is that it will intertwine different artistic languages, different voices and different perspectives. There is no linear narrative when you work with a large group of people and when what you want is to debunk dominant narratives.

MM: The point of this class is to empower students to find their way toward an outcome. I hope we are providing the necessary tools and key experiences that will inspire and help shape the work, but part of our commitment is to allow the group to make decisions rather than following an authoritative directive. Part of the excitement of this kind of work is allowing it to happen.

Artist of the Week: Marie Grace Imanariyo

By Abigail Sherman
Staff Writer



Abigail Sherman / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Marie Grace Imanariyo ‘20, a renowned Christian recording artist, dominates the art scene on campus.

Not one to put herself in the spotlight, Marie Grace Imanariyo ‘20 had kept her talents under the radar at Muhlenberg college. A computer science major, Imanariyo had kept her musical abilities on the ‘down-low’ while also participating in DCF Worship Team, computer science club, African Student Organization and International Student Organization while also working as a campus delegate and a second year RA. However, after being featured in The New Times Publication, a Rwandan newspaper, Imanariyo’s article was showcased by Muhlenberg. “I was very surprised to see the school featuring that article. I don’t know how it reached the school, but I was very humbled. Now I see people and they’re like, ‘You’re an artist!’ and I’m like, ‘How do you know?’”

Although she hasn’t broadcasted it in Muhlenberg, Imanariyo has been involved with music since her early years. “When I grew up, I started getting involved in music when I was six; I was still very young,” she said. “I was interested in musical instruments, but I didn’t have any at home. You know the kind of people that drum and have the shouting neighbors? That was me. I would also drum in church but [used] a traditional Rwandan drum. I also was part of the children’s sunday school choir, and I grew up in a Christian family. I grew up just liking to sing and to play that drum. I went to boarding school in middle school, and I sang in the choir there and drummed for them.”

“When I reached high school I kept in touch with my choir back home so I would go to church. I started getting involved with keyboard. I didn’t go to any school, but I would see someone playing and I would have them teach me a new thing. I was self taught. I have a friend of mine who I would look at and ask him questions about piano.”

After teaching herself these instruments, Imanariyo joined multiple worship teams and choirs at home and she continued to participate in them after coming to Muhlenberg. Her first big leap into broadcasting herself as a musical artist was releasing two self-written songs this past summer when back home in Rwanda.

“I haven’t reached the level of great, great artists, but seeing that the school is supporting me and sharing the article, it’s a great sign,” she said. “I was very glad, and it’s an opportunity for me to share with people. My first song is completely in Kinyarwanda, but my second song is partly in English and Kinyarwanda so people can listen to it and connect to the words that they can understand.”

When talking about how she chose to come to Muhlenberg, Imanariyo said, “I’m part of an organization called She Can: supporting how education changes a nation. They help women find schools in the U.S. When I looked at the schools they had on the list, I saw Muhlenberg and thought, ‘This is a good school. I want to go here.’ I wanted a small school, because I thought it would be easier for me to adapt, and they had my major,” a major that Imanariyo hopes to use to become an engineer.

After Muhlenberg, Imanariyo hopes to find ways she can engage in both computer science and her love for music. “I think I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me, and combining my major with the gift that God blessed me with, I think it will be possible. Being an engineer will be my professional career, but at the same time, I don’t have to shut down the talent I have. I’ll be a gospel artist and a technologist.” For now, Imanariyo is just thankful for the support that she has now at Muhlenberg and the Muhlenberg community.

Speaking on her inspiration for her music, Imanariyo said, “I believe that I have something that I can use to bless people with. I was born to worship. I don’t think about myself without worshipping, and I was born to praise and worship God. I think I was born to praise and worship God. That is something that inspires me, knowing that Christ has died for me and that he is there for me, and I can write and sing about him.”

To learn more about Imanariyo’s music, follow her on Instagram (@gracious_gra3ce) or give a listen to her singles “Wa Musozi” and “No Other God” on YouTube and Facebook at Marie Grace Imanariyo.

MOVING STORIES

NOV 8-10

Muhlenberg College
Theatre & Dance

innovative dance works
by emerging choreographers

featuring works by
Jessica Afflerbach
Shantell Cruz
Heather Downey
Nikki Gagliano
Jessica Hayward
Timothy Janovsky
Caitlyn Kraemer
Morgan Litzenberger
Nadia Ureña
Audrey Yan

featuring faculty artist:
Teresa VanDenend Sorge

Artistic Director:
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“The world we knew will glow”

Brigadoon brings Broadway’s “golden age” to the stage

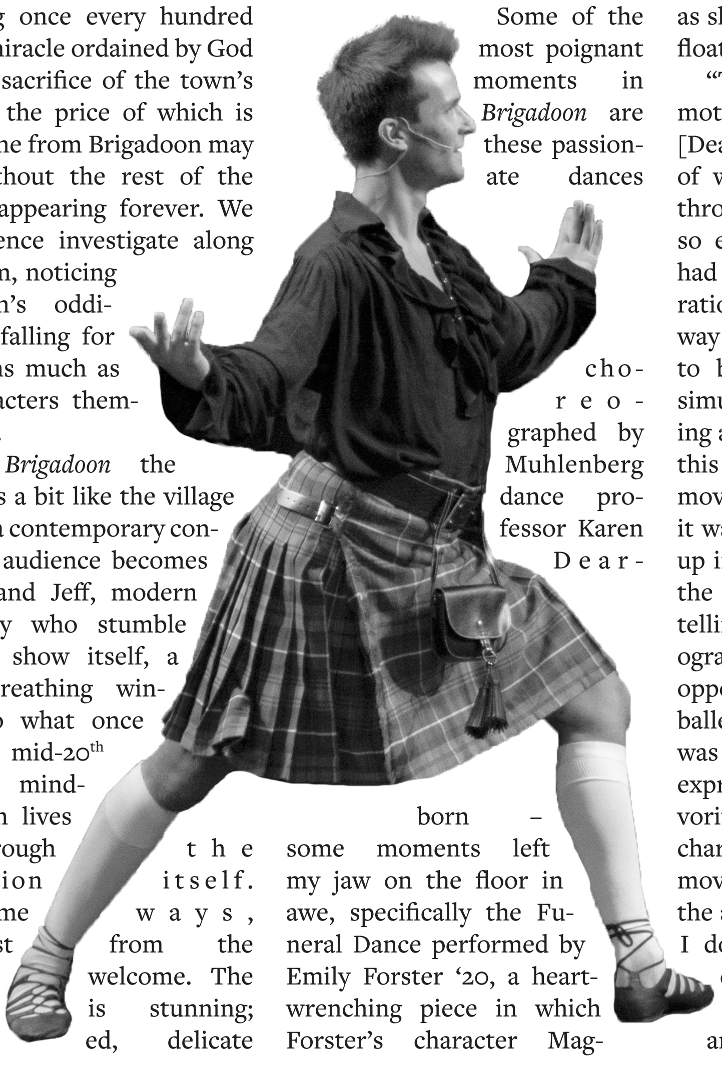
By Brooke Weber
Arts & Culture Editor

Lerner and Loewe’s classic musical *Brigadoon*, which ran on the Empie stage from Oct. 26 to Nov. 4, is a piece about time in more ways than one. In and of itself, the show is mostly set in the Scottish Highlands as preserved from the 1700s, complete with tartan kilts, colorful corsets and rich local traditions that have since been lost to the ages. Everything from market fairs to extravagant weddings with representatives from different clans proudly marching under their group’s crest are presented on stage in all their glory, allowing the audience to share in the joyful particularity of the writers’ quaint, constructed small-town Scotland.

But this musical is also about the time in which these writers crafted it: the 1940s, the “golden age” of Broadway shows, an age full of uniquely beautiful, expressive dance and ringing melodies made to make the most of a wide range of highly skilled voices. Tommy and Jeff (Julian Mone ‘19 and John Caposcale ‘22, respectively), the two American characters from the 20th century, stumble upon the Scottish village of Brigadoon and eventually discover its mystical origins – the town is protected from attacking witches and sorcerers appearing once every hundred years, a miracle ordained by God with the sacrifice of the town’s minister, the price of which is that no one from Brigadoon may leave without the rest of the town disappearing forever. We the audience investigate along with them, noticing Brigadoon’s oddities and falling for its charms much as the characters themselves do.

Still, *Brigadoon* the musical is a bit like the village itself. In a contemporary context, the audience becomes Tommy and Jeff, modern passers-by who stumble into the show itself, a living, breathing window into what once was: the mid-20th century mindset which lives on through the production itself. In some ways, this blast from the past is welcome. The dancing is stunning; extended, delicate pieces meant only for the dance ensemble and featured dancers (originally choreographed by the legendary Agnes DeMille) are scarcely found in contemporary musical theatre. Even more rare are characters who speak almost exclusively through the medium of dance, like Heather Dutton ‘20’s character Jean MacLaren.

“[Jean] is 18 years old and the whole show takes place on the day of her wedding. My rehearsal process included many separate rehearsals for scene work and choreography,” said Dutton. “One thing that I really love about this show is that dance is constantly being used to develop the story further. While I think it is common to see dance being used in theatre strictly for entertainment, Brigadoon is an example of a show that truly uses dance as another mode of expression. When the characters are feeling something with unfathomable intensity, instead of attempting to communicate it through words, they communicate it through movement. I believe that the way movement is utilized in this show adds a lot to the overall impact it has on people; it is for more than just the aesthetic value, it deepens the story’s emotional life and reveals layers of the characters’ personalities and relationships with one another throughout the show.”



Some of the most poignant moments in *Brigadoon* are these passionate dances choreographed by Muhlenberg dance professor Karen Dearborn – some moments left my jaw on the floor in awe, specifically the Funeral Dance performed by Emily Forster ‘20, a heart-wrenching piece in which Forster’s character Maggie Anderson, having lost her unrequited love Harry Beaton, throws herself upon the ground and at her beloved’s body, undulating in repetitive, outreaching movements that dare anyone in the watching crowd to question her grief and sorrow. In life, her adored Harry, played by Tommy Gedrich ‘21, is also quite the dancer. Though angry in words, he is graceful in movement, exquisitely pirouetting and skillfully leaping around crossed swords in a kind of ritual jig.

In one breathtaking scene, Dutton performs a duet of sorts with Adam Cantor ‘21, who plays her intended, Charlie Dalrymple. In this classic song, “Come to Me, Bend to Me,” Cantor begins by singing a refrain of love in anticipation of his character’s upcoming wedding. Dutton’s reply, rather than a companion melody, takes form in a ballet dance, a lovely, embodied expression of care and excitement that conveys her reciprocation of Cantor’s words. Her movement is set up as equal to his song, and the piece ends with both of them performing at once, Cantor’s clear voice becoming Dutton’s accompaniment as she and the dance ensemble float about the stage.

“The choreography was all motivated by the story; Karen [Dearborn] was very aware of where we were in the plot throughout the entire process, so each piece of choreography had a very clear point of inspiration,” said Dutton. “Finding a way to truly allow my movement to be emotionally driven was simultaneously the most exciting and most challenging part of this process for me. Most of my movement was very balletic, so it was easy for me to get caught up in the technical execution of the steps and neglect the storytelling elements of the choreography ... I have had very few opportunities, especially as a ballet dancer, to do work that was so overtly emotional and expressive. I think my very favorite thing about playing this character was that I got to use movement to communicate with the audience and say things that I don’t think words or music could have said alone.”

Still, despite the show’s artistic beauty, its mid-century message leaves much to be desired. Women in the show are either going to be married or will do almost anything with the eventual goal of getting married, and the men in their lives are equally willing to do almost anything to get the women they want – in one scene, Gedrich’s character Harry assaults Dutton’s character Jean during her wedding ceremony, pinning her down and kissing her in the middle of a dance. As Jean, in tears, is rushed back to her new husband, Harry shouts, “All I ever did was love you too much!” as he runs away with the intent to leave the town. The men gather and chase after him, not because of what he just did to Jean, but because his leaving would condemn them all to disappear as per the rules of the miracle. When Harry dies during the chase, his wrongs are never again mentioned. Earlier in the show, a Brigadoon woman named Meg Brockie (Jessie Kuehne ‘21) makes it clear that she intends to become romantically and sexually involved with the American Jeff, whether he wants the same or not. When he falls asleep after consistently rebuffing her advances, Meg insinuates that she will initiate this involvement while he lies unconscious in a scene that is meant to be read as comedic.

“*Brigadoon* had some really beautiful moments. The dancing was gorgeous and so was a lot of the music,” said one audience member. “*Brigadoon* is really antiquated at this point. Some of the story lines and jokes just felt stale and uncomfortable ... I really think everybody in the show did their part to make the production as beautiful as possible ... I appreciate it as a postwar escapist thing, but I don’t think the couple of sexual assaults the audience witnessed in the show translate to today’s definition of escapism, if that makes any sense. *Brigadoon* is a nice idea, but if it was far-fetched in the forties, it’s certainly far-fetched now.”

The creative team behind Brigadoon, the actors, designers and directors who put hours of work into crafting this production, certainly did everything they could to make this show accessible to a current audience, even changing up some of the derogatory language used to describe witches in the original script to mitigate some of the show’s original outright misogyny. The problem, though, lies within the show itself.

“I’d like to see the department take on more modern material,” said the same audience member. “We can recognize that golden age musicals were great in their time without rehashing them and their old fashioned politics.”

Still, perhaps there’s still a way to take something valuable from even a somewhat outdated show. As another audience member, Val Weisler ‘20, said, “I thought *Brigadoon* was an interesting piece of theatre to watch right now. At first glance, it’s a scenario so far away from our lives as students. But I understood the fear of the people of Brigadoon – the idea that staying in a place for more than one day will cause you to be an active victim in the terror of that century is one I related to quite strongly. They craved this assurance of safety and security that you can’t get when you live day by day, especially in our current political climate.”

This is how we can take the beloved artistic endeavors of old into the future with us: by appreciating their essence, their abstract ideals, and not by reproducing the stories that have already been told time and time again. As Dutton puts it:

“I think that this is a piece of theatre that, when put in conversation with today’s world, encourages people to see beyond themselves. Brigadoon teaches us that even the most ideal place on earth cannot be entirely shielded from life’s darkness. There are some hardships that are inescapable, even in worlds that run on magic and miracles. However, if we make the choice to open ourselves to that which is unfamiliar to us, we may find that the most reliable love and the brightest light exists only in the depths of the unknown.”

Photos Courtesy of Ken Ek.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

Editorial

Choose your words wisely

Free speech is a topic that is well trodden by media sources, the Muhlenberg Weekly included. Pretty much every editorial we have written this semester either directly or indirectly has had to do with free speech, whether it be through attacks on the media or protests or people choosing what to hear and what to believe. We talk about the importance of free speech and the first amendment and how to make your voice heard, but we don't talk about how free speech is used. Specifically, how the idea of free speech is used by the powerful against those without power.

This weaponization of free speech can be traced back to college campuses. When people like Richard Spencer began to be denied and banned from college campuses, the claims that colleges hate free speech and that the left were denying people of their right to speak came flying in. But what must be noted is that when Colleges like Ohio State University denied Richard Spencer, it was usually on the basis of potential danger, seeing as Richard Spencer's followers have a history of violence sometimes resulting in death, and not based solely on his views.

We see this from the right all the time, using free speech as a way of making their voices heard. Look at when Alex Jones was being banned from facebook and youtube, there were countless articles and posts about how it was an attack on free speech. Or consider the articles by websites like Breitbart talking about how the left has abandoned its ideals of free speech. But what those articles don't understand is that the left has refined their understanding of free speech.

The first amendment guarantee that the government shall not make laws limiting the freedom of speech or the freedom of the press. So, to say that newspapers or colleges must give space to every voice and all views is not true.

Before moving forward, it must be made clear that we here at the Weekly do believe it is of the utmost importance to give space to as many voices as possible, especially disenfranchised people whose voices are all too often ignored and suppressed based on reasons of race, class or gender, please read last week's editorial for more on that.

> **"We must use our power to improve the world for all, rather than improve it for those already in power. And that is well within our rights."**

There is then the argument that, while not legally required to, there is a moral and intellectual obligation to include voices from all sides, and in general I would have to agree. What is often forgotten, or willfully ignored, is that part of the freedom of speech is the freedom to choose what not to say, especially when thinking about it in terms of newspapers. You may argue that for a newspaper to deny space for an opinion or point of view is a denial of that point of view's right to speech as an individual, but the press also has the right to free speech and part of free speech is curating what to say and being critical of your own speech.

What does it mean to curate and be critical of your speech? It comes down to considering the effect of the speech. To deny speech to someone based on race or class or gender is deplorable because it continues to disenfranchise those who are abused by the powers that be most of all. But, to deny speech to those who are encouraging violence or are denying space for the disenfranchised, is different as those types of speech have a direct negative effect on real people. Even if someone is not explicitly saying anything harmful to anyone, if their followers are causing violence and attacking disenfranchised minorities then that affect must be taken into consideration.

A newspaper has power and a platform.

It is each newspaper's job to determine how they will use their power and their platform. In an ideal world, a newspaper would stay strictly neutral, but our world is far from ideal. This is also true of private companies like facebook or twitter, which allow their platforms to be used for nazis and TERF (trans exclusionary radical feminists). But this is also true of you. You have the power and the right to use your voice to ensure the safety and the well being of those by not giving space for thoughts of hate and violence. We must use our power to improve the world for all, rather than improve it for those already in power. And that is well within our rights.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

GRAPHIC OPINIONS

The DC Universe becomes universal

By Melissa Reph
News Editor

I'll be blatantly honest, I went from no ideas for this week's column to doing research for my third idea. That research has led me to possibly the greatest discovery in comic-dom and I needed to share.

DC Comics has created a free online encyclopedia.

That's it. It doesn't seem like much but I can assure you this is HUGE. If you've read my Graphic Opinions then you know by now that I'm the DC nerd of the two of us writing the column and if you know anything about comics you know that's not necessarily an easy feat.

DC Comics has been publishing since 1934 and for a majority of that time their characters have had continuous and overlapping plots. This makes DC incredibly inaccessible for new readers who have no idea where to start. Then add in the fact that if you pick up a Batman comic from the 1990s you might not have a single clue what's going on because it requires you to know the entire backstory of some minor villain from the 1960s.

They've realized this a couple times over the years and have attempted to reboot so as to make things more streamlined and easier to follow for new readers. Most notably in 2011 with the New52, which actually ended up alienating many longtime fans.

For the most part though, people have forced their way into reading DC comics through the internet, some very helpful and/or persistent friends and learning the basics from shows or movies.

I tend to hyperfixate when I find a new interest so when I decided that I was going to watch Young Justice back in middle school I committed to struggling through the first half of season one based only on what prior pop culture knowledge I had from a friend from summer camp and what I could remember from Teen Titans. A lot went over my head. Shout out to the Northampton Area Middle School library for having a copy of the DC Comics Encyclopedia. I checked it out, read it cover to cover and finally started to actually get the show.

That encyclopedia, and the later edition that I bought for myself in high school, got me through all of season one and the first couple comics that I bought knowing nothing more than "I like Batgirl and Teen Titans and these say Batgirl and Teen Titans!" They were not the ones I was thinking of.

DC is known for its legacies, different characters taking over the same hero's mantle over the years, and this still throws people off when they go to pick up their first comic. (Flash Fact: There have been five Robins, four Flashes and seven Green Lanterns in the main canon.)

It can take a lot of time and effort to read a single comic book when you're first starting out but it seems like DC has finally realized this and are doing something to help. Earlier this fall they launched the website DC Universe. Presented at a platform for their animated shows and movies with new series, but it's been shaped closer to a hub of all things DC. I'll definitely be taking a deeper look in a later article, worry not.

I discovered that the DC Universe site features a free encyclopedia for their characters and teams similar to the ones that allowed me to enjoy the comics. While nowhere near complete, they are continuing to add and expand to it. What's more, there are some features middle school me would have loved and even as a well-read fan I fully intend to utilize.

Each entry features the title, year and issue number of the character's first appearance. There's a character biography broken down by reboots with years and my favorite aspect: notable storylines with title, year, issues and a summary. Meaning you actually know what comics to look for when starting with a particular character or team.

Another fun thing for people like me who picked up a comic after watching a show or movie, they have a list of all the times that character has appeared in another form of media.

Long story short: there's a free, complete and collected place for information on DC characters and storylines. No more scouring the internet for reading lists, minor character bios or excuses to not read Wonder Woman after watching the movie for the seventeenth time. DC just changed the game.

Now if only they would hire me to help write the rest of their entries.

Why I wanted to stay silent and you said “no”

The following article contains reference to sexual assault.

The facts of my case are as follows: I was assaulted the summer leading up to my Junior year. No, I didn’t ask for it. Yes, I agreed to be alone with him. Why? I thought he was my friend — I learned quickly I was wrong.

Afterwards, I wanted to move on. I wanted to forget and pretend it didn’t happen. But I had friends who I knew would make the same mistake I did. So, I warned them privately. I told them my experience so that they would at least be aware. I made it clear I didn’t want it to go further.

A week or so later he contacted me. Someone had told him about my warnings. To sum up, he told me to keep quiet, or there would be consequences.

I was terrified.

I am terrified.

I kept quiet.

And now we come to the reason I’m writing to you—all of you.

Some person decided to give my name to Title IX. Some person decided to give my name, as evidence against my assaulter, to Title IX. Without my permission, without warning, without any means of contact beforehand, they gave my name for a trial against the assaulter who threatened me.

Some person, a third party in this issue, stole my name and made me live through my trauma all. Over. Again.

This is a message for you and only you — you know who you are — you had no right.

I don’t care about your reasons or your morals; I don’t care about your excuses or your “ultimate goal;” you had no right. But I will give you the courtesy and decency you did not give me: I will not name you.

What I will name, however, is the atrocious means in which Title IX, specifically Lin-Chi Wang, handled my grievance. I was told that they understood I was uncomfortable being contacted by a lawyer, but that my name being given was not only fine but necessary. Being that I was named as a witness, I am necessary in the trial process — but whether I gave permission means nothing. When I told her I worried for my safety, and how my name being in this trial endangered me, she told me I would need to file for the no retaliation/harassment policy.

This would require me to report my trauma.

The very thing I didn’t want to do.

The very thing I shouldn’t have to do if my name wasn’t given in the first place.

Again, she told me she understood I wasn’t comfortable being contacted by a lawyer.

She then revealed that my name may or may not be removed for the trial. When Muhlenberg handles sexual assault cases, by law they are required to have witnesses to prevent a he said/she said scenario. If my name as a witness is the only name to keep the “witness quota” legal, then they cannot remove it.

I then told her I refused to give testimony.

This didn’t matter—my name will be recorded still, in the trial with my assaulter there, saying I refused to give testimony.

He will know I was involved.

Wang then questioned my choice in refusing testimony, asking whether or not I wanted the school to do its job properly.

I was speechless but nodded.

She continued to say that of course, I must understand I would need to keep quiet about this. That we need to make sure the school remains in a good light during this process.

I did not know what to say to that. I frankly couldn’t respond.

These past weeks have been a roller coaster to say the least. I’m terrified of what might happen; I’m terrified of what could be happening now; I’m angry at what has happened, and feel lost.

Most of all though, I’m terrified of you, reader. You, my professor, my friend, my abuser, my betrayer, the stranger who sits next to me in class, and my assaulter—I am terrified of you. How will you respond to this? Will you? Are you even reading this now? I don’t know what I’m scared of more: an overall negative response or you simply not caring.

What I do know are the facts. My name was given in a case that I wanted no part in. The school can’t do anything about it except shrug their shoulders and say “good luck with that.” And now, since I was brought forward anyway, I might as well tell it with the little power and control I have.

I am a survivor who wanted to stay silent, and you said “no.”

The Weekly has verified the identity of the writer, who was granted anonymity for safety. For Title IX’s perspective on the witness process and other related issues, see “Title IX on Trial” on p. 3 of this edition.

Oh, how I’ve longed for a geo-tag of my own

By Bill Bamser
Humorist

Photo Courtesy of Karly McCloskey

Bill Bamser is seen here contemplating his existence.

Sigh.

Woe is me, woe is me. As I sit upon my crown of tears, I cannot escape the thoughts which ravish my psyche day after day after day. I have been reduced to nothing as with each passing day my aspirations and dreams drift further and further from my reach. I am man no more, but merely a puddle resigned to suffer in this dank pit of a world.

I lie still in my broken form, without want but to be left with my thoughts. But the giants of this world see it fit to splash and laugh about in my liquid form, separating me further from the man I once knew to be Bill Bamser. Be their laughter that of mockery? I know not. It is unlikely, to such kings and queens I am but a puddle, not worthy of a glance or a thought. For who would have any desire for a wicked wretch like me?

My being is shaken, shaken by those who look down upon the likes of me. Shaken by the Gods which have resigned me to such desolation. Shaken by those worthy beautiful few blessed by God. Shaken by the few who see it fit to flaunt their wealth at those who have nothing. But if only it was mere wealth, it is a wealth of heart, a wealth of mind. It is a wealth of the soul. And those children of God lucky enough to be graced with such privilege and such honor, they squander it.

They walk about with their nose in the sky, unwilling to use that which was gifted to them by God himself. They know not the power they possess. It is this which truly cuts me to my core.

Ach du lieber. As I sit in my dormitory, watching the rain cascade down the windows as the tears do down my cheek, I am forced to contemplate my very being.

Am I not a good man? My God refuses to listen, but my faith keeps me praying. Do I not wake at early dawn each day to tend to the fields of the College Green? Do I not thank mother and father for their generosity? Do I not sweat and bleed and give all I can to whomever will take it? What more can a man do? Tell me God! Tell me! How can I be worthy? What must I do?

What must I do?

I scream to the heavens for naught. My screams and tears are just a gnat to a God, but an annoyance. My screams are without reason, I know the answers to my heavenly questions. There is nothing. Nothing I can do to deserve a gift like a geo-tag of my own on Snapchat. Yes, tis true. The source of my sadness is an empty bucket labeled geo-tag at the well of Snapchat.

I have come to know this truth well in my life. It is more of sheet than it is of shirt, haunting my being for the crimes of another. I take nary a step without this ghastly ghoul weighing me down into what has become my reality. Forced to remain in this world where I cannot see, blinded by tears for the snap of my life will soon expire and I am left without a filter to call my own.

I am trapped in the life of a swine, forced to send pictures without any recognition from Snapchat of my being. There have been birthdays, graduations, weddings, funerals, bar mitzvahs, bat mitzvahs, I have done them all only to receive utter and defining silence from Snapchat. I know not if they be cowards or if they be cruel. It matters not, the effect remains and the result has yet to waver. I stand alone, refreshing until the app has become rancid. But I know now, it is not the app that is rancid, it is I. I am rancid.

There was once a time where I could turn to nature, look to the trees and find peace. But that peace has been stolen from me. For even trees, which are nothing more than a resting place for insects and vermin, are worth more to Snapchat than I.

Friday, April 26th 2018. Snapchat saw it fit to honor these towers of wood with a filter all of their own. But when I thought my heart could take no more, I swiped to find a geo-filter for Camila. I pay all respects to Camila and her first quinceanara, but a child has more than I and I shan’t forget that.

Although it may seem it, all is not lost, for there is still a glimmer of hope residing in my chest, weak as it may be. My wife and I have been attempting to conceive, at my insistence. When my child arrives, Snapchat will have no choice but to tip their hat, revealing the respect they’ve always had for me. But that day shan’t come soon, if it comes at all.

I’d ask for your help, but pity me not friend. For I will have my day, I know this by my God, Cthulhu. Please ease my gentile heart with a poke from a friend, on Facebook.

Half-full half-empty:

Fall season comes to a close for golf, what's to come in the spring?

By Jason Grant
Contributing Writer

The men's golf team ended their fall season at the John Makuvek Cup hosted by Brookside Country Club. The annual event's field included cross-valley rivals DeSales University and Moravian College on a day with cold and windy conditions.

Moravian won the cup, shooting eight strokes lower than DeSales and 12 strokes lower than the Mules.

Individually, Muhlenberg's own Spencer Weiner '21 tied for first place with a score of 79.

"I would rate that as my best tournament as I was in contention to win individually. And it always feels good when you feel the pressure of trying to win," said Weiner. He tied with two other golfers, one from each of the teams participating in the invitational, who also shot 79.

Ellis Focht '19 was not far off from the top spot, shooting an 80 which was good enough to tie for fourth place among individuals.

This was the squad's seventh and final tournament of the fall season. Out of the seven invitationals and tournaments the team finished in the top half of the playing field: the Dickinson Invitational, the Moravian Weyhill Classic, and the Muhlenberg Invitational.

The Mules best showing was at the Muhlenberg Invitational, playing at their home course: Lehigh Country Club. Two Mules, Adam Marcus '22 and Weiner finished within the top 10 individually among a 17 team field. Marcus shot a 75 while Weiner shot a 76 for the second straight year at the event. Muhlenberg had the opportunity to capture their home tournament for the fourth straight year, having won the event in the previous three falls.

"We had a couple of solid rounds, although we would have liked to win the tournament," said Weiner.

Ellis Focht '19 and Ben Lieberman '19 will play their final season for the Mules in the spring. Focht averaged the lowest score per round, playing eight rounds this season with an average score of 77.9. He also has a spot in the best 15 scores in Muhlenberg's men's golf program's history over a three round tournament after shooting a 232 at the 2018 Centennial Conference Championship.

Lieberman also has his name in the Muhlenberg record books. His stroke average of 77.0 during his freshman campaign is the fourth lowest single year stroke average ever. He also has a spot within the top 10 with the lowest two round score of 150 at the Mason-Dixon Classic during that freshman campaign.

The Mules do not return to action until March, playing in the TaylorMade Adidas Intercollegiate Tournament.

Head Coach John Librick has been the men's coach since 2009 and hopes to return the team to the heights it saw in the 2015-2016 campaign. In that year, the team finished top three in twelve of the fifteen tournaments they played.

Additional reporting by Matt Riebesell. Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics.

Volleyball eliminated from first round of Centennial Conference

By Alex Blum
Contributing Writer

Another year for the Muhlenberg women's volleyball team has come to a short and unfortunate end after being ousted by McDaniel from the first round of the Centennial Conference playoffs. With another 20-win year filled with record breaking performances and outstanding winning streaks, the women have nothing be ashamed about, rather they should be motivated and encouraged to work harder and come back next year stronger and scarier than ever before. With this unfortunate result concluding an exciting season, the Mules can reflect on the highs and the lows as well as look ahead to the promising 2019-20 season to come.

The Mules began their championship run on Wednesday Oct. 31 at McDaniel in hopes of redeeming themselves from their initial loss back in Oct. 20. The ladies entered the matchup ranked sixth in the Mid-Atlantic Region by the NCAA. Although jumping out to a 2-0 lead at the start of the first, along with a 8-1 run in the second and an early 6-1 run in the third, the Green Terror had the Mules playing catch up for a majority of the match. Kelly Tornetta '19 would lead the team with 11 kills and 16 digs, but it would not be enough as the crew would leave Westminster, MD the loser.

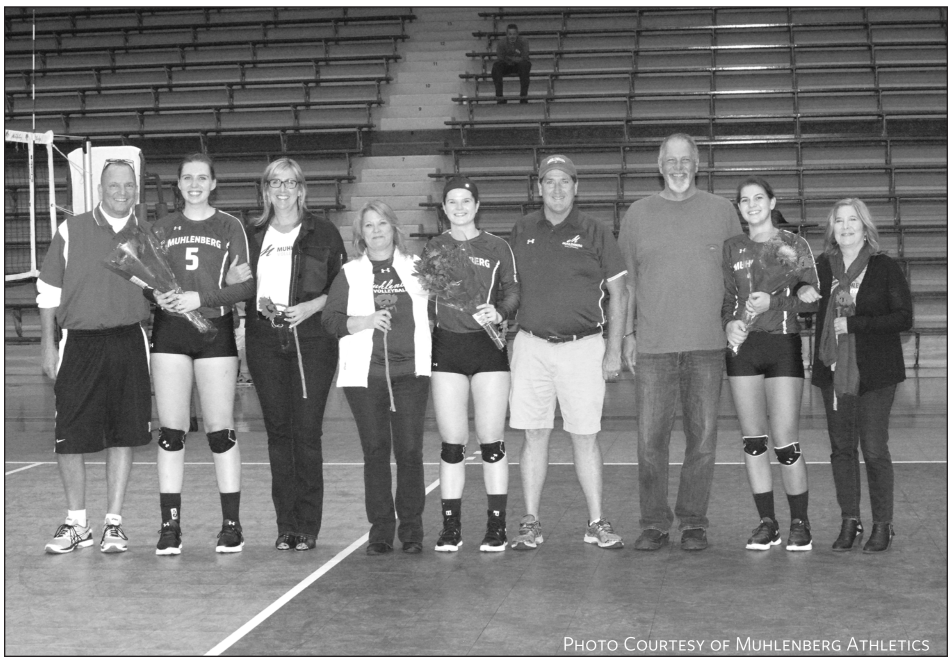


Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Seniors Tornetta, Schultz, and Hubert pose on senior night.

"McDaniel did a really good job of scouting us, and knew what our tendencies were as a team. The first 10 points of the match included some really long rallies, very few of which went our way early on. This took the wind out of our sails a little bit, and it allowed McDaniel to go on multiple long point runs. While we struggled to find a consistent flow of play, McDaniel played great and really utilized playing on their home court to full advantage" said Tara Register '19.

Even though their championship run may have been cut short, there were certainly moments from the year that will never be forgotten and there were moments that surely want to be forgotten. Unforgettable and historic moments from the season such as Shannon Hubert '19 becoming the the second player in Muhlenberg history to accumulate quadruple figures in both assists and digs. Along with that was Tornetta's historic night when she eclipsed the 1,000 kills mark and became the fifth Mule to reach such a milestone.

"All of our seniors have been huge leaders on and off the court the past few years. It was amazing this year to celebrate huge milestones for our seniors, especially with Kelly (Tornetta) hitting 1,000 kills and Shannon breaking multiple records. The seniors have been huge contributors on the court in their athletic abilities, and off the court in their leadership abilities. We will miss them in the seasons to come," said Register.

From phenomenal career milestones to sensational single game performances such as Kendall Applegate's two sensational serving runs to send '21 Ursinus College home back on Oct. 10. Another highlight of the year was the Mules' road trip to the Midwest which served as a great team bonding experience, unforgettable moment, and amazing homecoming for Maggie Enestvedt '20, who hails from St. Paul MN. "One of the moments I will not forget was beating Swarthmore at our last home game of the season. Since being at Muhlenberg, we had never beaten them. So, it was really cool to finally earn a win against them during our Reagan′s Rally game," Register added. Besides all the incredible moments, there were also painful ones like those tight, yet competitive Conference matches that slipped away. Register reflected on the toughest moment for her saying "We haven't lost a group of seniors in a while, so it's really hard to swallow the idea that our time playing together is over. I wish we could have sent the seniors out on a better note, but it's been an absolute pleasure playing with them the past three years."

The 2019 season is on the rise and there is lots to look forward to. Although losing their three key seniors in Tornetta, Schultz, and Hubert, the squad remains eager and determined to maintain their dominance and get ready for another shot at the Centennial Conference Championship. The future is bright and Register expressed optimism on the season to come. "We are losing three key starters, and there will definitely be some new people stepping up in key roles. I think that we could have another successful year, and am looking forward to working on the connections playing next to different people. I think the remaining starters work really well together, and I do think that we will be successful in molding a different team. Especially with different people filling the roles that the seniors vacated, I think that maintaining consistency and improving our communication will be huge for having a successful year," she said. The Mules will be back on the court again before we know it, for another thrilling season.

Playoff run ends in semis for field hockey

Field hockey can't overcome nationally ranked F&M twice in one year

By Max Shapiro
Sports Editor

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athleics

Rachel Richards '21 battles for possession against Dickinson.

The Mules field hockey team has pieced together a historic season, finishing with their second best Centennial Conference record of all time at 8-2, good enough for a return to the postseason after missing out on the tournament last year.

Going into the tournament, the team boasted a five game win streak, with key victories coming over conference rivals Gettysburg, McDaniel, Washington College and Swarthmore. The women defeated Dickinson, 1-0, in the first round of the Centennial Conference playoffs, advancing to the semifinals for the third time in the last five years. The lone goal came from forward Rachel Richards '21, who has been the team's leading goal scorer all year. This marked their sixth win in a row.

Their next obstacle came in the form of Franklin & Marshall, who boasted a 15-2 record on the year, the number one overall seed in the tournament and whose lone defeat on the year came at the hands of the Mules. The women drew first blood in this semifinal matchup, with Richards finding the back of the net once again. However the Diplomats were able to eventually bring the game level and force overtime.

After a scoreless first overtime period, Franklin & Marshall ended the Mules season with a game winning goal off of a rebound just 3:40 into the second OT period. Jordan Seagrave, who has been a rock in goal all year, tallied six saves in the defeat.

The Mules defense has shined brightly in their run back to the postseason, as they end the season only just allowing six goals in their final seven games.

With the loss, the team will be saying farewell to Stephi Rydgren '19, Courtney Allen '19, and Emily Davis '19. Davis and Rydgren both earned 2018 All-Centennial Conference second team honors for their stellar play this season. However there is excitement for the future among the team, as the Mules will look to continue to develop their young roster, and six current freshmen.

Those returning next year are looking to build upon this year's success going forward, and use both the ups and downs of their playoff run as a valuable learning experience.

Out of ammo: football shuts out Gettysburg Bullets on parents weekend

By Matt Riebesell
Managing Editor

GO MULES!
GO MULES!
GO MULES!
GO MULES!
GO
Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

The stands at Scotty Wood Stadium were filled during Family Weekend.

Coming off of their first loss of the season, the Muhlenberg football squad put on a show in front of a packed Scotty Wood Stadium on Saturday Nov. 3 - the Saturday of parents weekend.

The Mules made light work of the Gettysburg Bullets blowing past them 49-0.

Both the offense and defense filled up the stat sheets with plenty positive numbers. One of those players on the offensive side of the ball was James Diggs '20 who started the off the scoring with a little help from his offensive line. Less than four minutes into the game Diggs was handed the ball on the opponent 13 yard line where he was met by the Gettysburg defense. Diggs was able to stay on his feet where he was reinforced by members of the Muhlenberg offensive line who literally pushed him the last eight yards into the endzone for the score.

"We were able to go out and establish the run early on in the game which allowed us to make plays in the passing game later on," said Diggs. "It was a point if emphasis for us to establish the run against a team that was looking to stuff the run game all day." Diggs ran for an additional touchdown for the Mules second touchdown of the afternoon.

Mike Hnatkowski '21 took the reins of passing game from that point which has been one of the top aerial attacks in the Centennial Conference in 2018. Hnatkowski is second in the Centennial in passing yards and touchdowns. He is also within the top 25 among all Division III quarterbacks in the country in passing yards, despite playing in fewer games than some of them.

The next four scores for the Mules came from the left hand of Hnatkowski, connecting with Max Kirin '20, Chris Hillburn '20, and Ryan Curtiss '20 twice for touchdowns.

"Our offensive line and running backs are some of the best in the country," said Hnatkowski. "They work extremely hard everyday and Saturday it showed."

Max Kirin furthered the notion of the hard work off the field translating to results on the gridiron.

"The offense was able to play so well because of how hard we worked during the week and in the offseason," he said. "Our great work ethic in practice was evident in the many broken tackles and extended plays, where all of our guys were playing until the whistle and were giving great effort on every single play."

The six touchdowns scored by the Mules offense did not leave the defense content and at ease. The Mules final score of the day was by Nate Corvil '19 who intercepted a Gettysburg pass and returned it for a pick-six. The defensive score was Corvil's fifth career defensive touchdown, three of which have come via the interception return. Corvil is now one interception touchdown away from tying the all-time Muhlenberg football record for interceptions returned for a touchdown in a career.

Frankie Feaster '20 also lit up the Gettysburg offense, racking up 1.5 sacks and intercepting a pass. Feaster's sack total in 2018 is now up to 11.5. If he can eclipse 14.5 on the season he will hold the Mules single season sack record at Muhlenberg. Feasters 11.5 sacks are also the most out of any player in the Centennial Conference, and seventh most out of any Division III player in the nation.

For the Mules to continue the quest to break into the playoffs and shatter records along the way they will end their regular season against cross-valley rival Moravian College. After that matchup, and depending on its result, the Mules will potentially earn a spot in an NCAA regional, hoping to capture an at-large bid.

The matchup will also be apart of the "Matte Cup", played between the sports teams of Moravian and Muhlenberg each year. The winner of the football game receives the Sedexo Trophy. Although the title game is more of a friendly championship game the Mules are using it to prepare for another playoff game they may battle their way into in a couple of weeks.

"This game is a championship level game for us and we know the guys in Bethlehem will be excited to get at us. Hopefully with a win we can get ourselves a playoff spot but to be honest we are really focused on preparing and playing Mules football against our rival," said Hnatkowski.

Kirin echoed his starting quarterback's remarks.

"Being the last game only adds to the implications of this game for both of our teams as we finish our regular seasons. We want to focus on the same things we have focused on giving great effort in practice and pushing each other to work hard so we can see the results."

The Gettysburg victory set a positive tone moving forward, and sent the players from the class of 2019 off in their last game at Scotty Wood stadium quite nicely. Diggs was proud to have this year's seniors experience a big win in their last home game.

"It was important that we played our hardest one last time for the seniors specifically. They've been in this program for four years and deserved to leave that field Saturday with a memory that would last them a lifetime."

Additional Reporting by Alex Horowitz

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Wrestling season kicks off with Ned McGinley Invitational

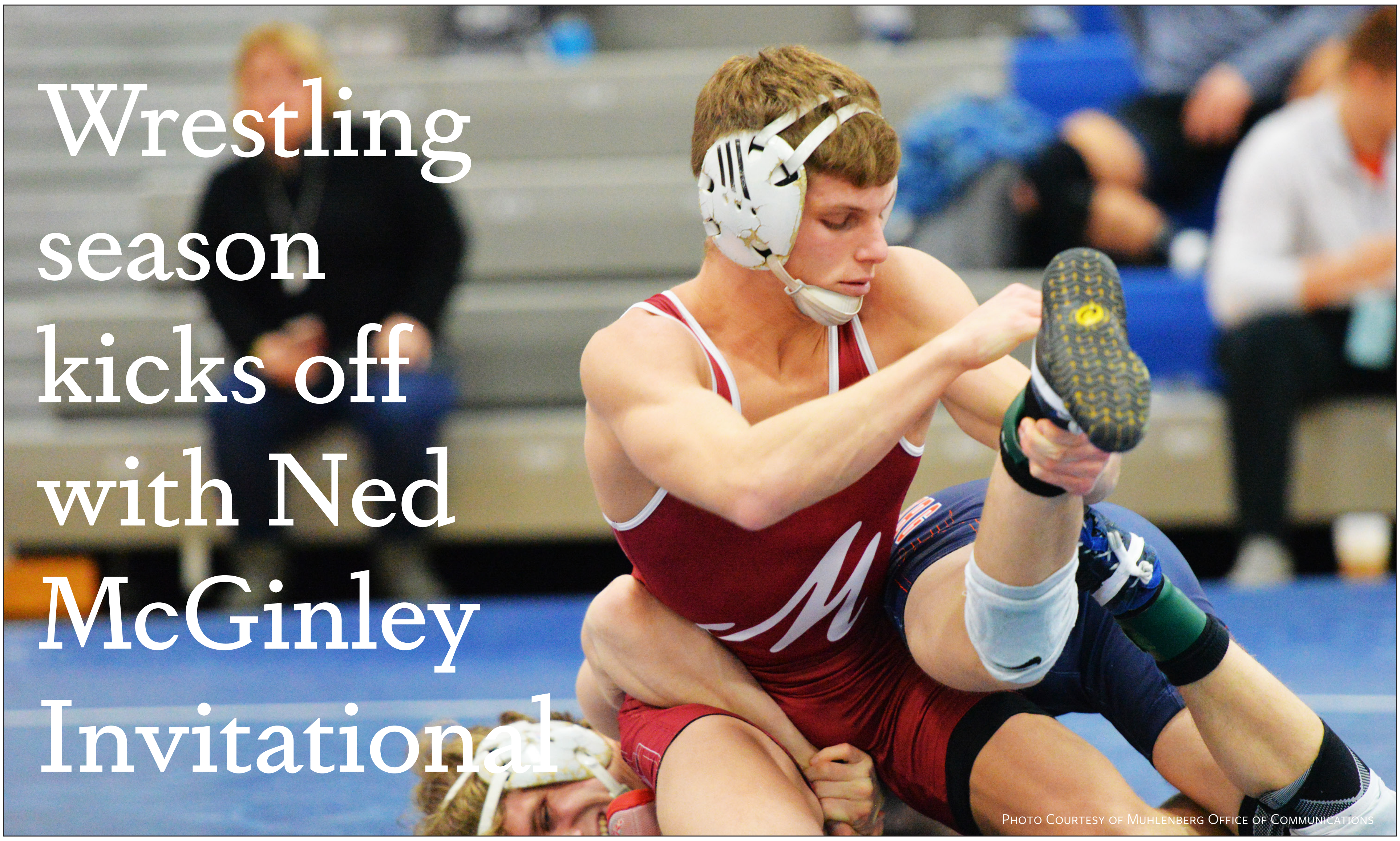


Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Office of Communications

By Matt Riebesell
Managing Editor

The Muhlenberg wrestling team participated in their first scheduled meet on Saturday Nov. 3, signaling the beginning of the Division III winter season.

Traveling to Wilkes-Barre, Pa. the team took part in the annual Ned McGinley Invitational hosted by Kings College.

"I'm proud of our overall effort. Relatively, we were successful in that we were strong in numbers and competed well," said Head Coach Jason McLean '01. The overall effort McLean referred to was good enough to place the Mules seventh out of the 16 team field of distinguished opponents. Three other programs at the invitational finished within the top 20 of the 2017-18 NCAA Division III rankings (York, 14; TCNJ, 18; Roger Williams, 19).

"We can and will do better. Although we finished behind a number of nationally ranked teams, we need to finish in top five at this tournament next year and in other tournaments this year," said Mclean.

The Ned McGinley Invitational serves equally important for both underclassmen and veterans on the team. "The invitational is important for getting young guys their first wins and allowing the veterans to really hit the ground running and pick up where they left off as well as progress past last year's showing," said McLean.

"I'm proud of our overall effort. Relatively, we were successful in that we were strong in numbers and competed well."

Two of those veterans who highlighted the day for the Mules were Austin Sherman '20 and Gennaro Cerminara '19. Sherman was the lone Mule to win their weight class, taking home the 141 title. On his path to winning the final, Sherman went 5-0 including a tech fall and a pin. He also took down wrestlers on York and Roger Williams, the tournament's top two team finishers. The team will rely heavily on Sherman in 2018-19 as he was a top wrestler last season, accumulating 28 wins and finishing in the top three of three different tournaments (most notably earning bronze at the 2017-18 Centennial Conference Championships).

Cerminara was a Centennial Conference champion a year ago, and is Muhlenberg's all time leader in pins. He has racked up two consecutive 30 win seasons and will be a force on the mat yet again.

"My goal was to win the tournament, while I wasn't able to do that, I was able to keep my head and come back for third," said Cerminara. A rather eventful third place finisher, Cerminara won five matches, ending three with a pin of his opponent and one more with a tech fall. That dominance helped him earn his sixth career top three tournament finish.

"I think I was successful because I stayed focus and relied on my training. What we have been doing in practice will never fail us, and that showed this weekend," said Cerminara.

The Mules still have a decent stretch before Conference mathes begin on Jan. 19 in a dual match with Johns Hopkins and Washington and Lee.

The Mules' fifth place finish in the Centennial Conference standings is something this year's squad wants to improve upon very much. "The teams toughness and willingness to learn are two things that set us apart, we have some great people who want to do great things, and it shows through the teams results and performances," said Cerminara of his teammates.

"What we have been doing in practice will never fail us, and that showed this weekend."

Cerminara and McLean each have strategies to get better and better with each match.

"Focusing on the little things. The big successes will come because the little things will add up. The matches are such a small part of the big picture. First, we will focus on the next days goals. As a coach, I may look ahead to the next competition but that is so I can understand the preparation needed before to be successful," said McLean.

As for Cerminara, "I will carry the positives from the wins forward, and eliminate the negatives."

McLean is on the same page as his team's senior leader. As goal of finishing in the top five in tournaments this year, he thinks it is feasible.

"We expect our guys to be successful. I believe in every one of them."

Coming up this week in SPORTS

Cross Country	Football	Women's Basketball	Men's Basketball
NCAA Mid East Regional	Muhlenberg vs Moravian	Muhlenberg vs Skidmore	Muhlenberg vs Skidmore
Saturday, Nov. 10 @ 10:00 am	Saturday, Nov. 10 @ 12:00 pm	Saturday, Nov. 10 @ 2:00 pm	Saturday, Nov. 10 @ 4:00 pm
Cetner Valley, PA	Bethlehem, PA	Saratoga Springs, NY	Saratoga Springs, NY

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Read inside:

Basketball splits at Skidmore

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

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NEWS

Muhlenberg offers a unique Documentary Storymaking minor that challenges students to study the theory and production of documentary work across LVAIC campuses.

read more on 3

ARTS & CULTURE

Téa Obreht, author of the acclaimed 2011 novel "The Tiger's Wife," delighted Muhlenberg audiences at Living Writers events on Nov. 7.

read more on 7

Photo Courtesy of Office of Comunications

OP/ED

Bill Bamser's power has gone to his head since his sudden success and he invites you to be one of his best friends.

read more on 9

SPORTS

Wrestling places first in Electric City Duals; Jimmy Fratantoni '19 earns Centennial Conference Wrestler of the Week Award.

read more on 11

Moving Stories 2018 embodies love, loss and everything in between

FINDING THE SUN

Photo Courtesy of Scott Snyder

Muhlenberg joins the American Talent Initiative

By Olivia Gaynor
Contributing Writer

This April, Muhlenberg joined the American Talent Initiative (ATI). ATI is a Bloomberg Philanthropies initiative that aims to seek out talented youth who cannot afford to attend a higher education institution. The entire Ivy League, as well as other institutions such as Johns Hopkins University, Occidental College and Smith College, are also involved with ATI. The schools affiliated with ATI, which are listed on the ATI website, are all high performing and graduate 70 percent of their students within six years. By the year 2025, ATI wants to bring 50,000 high-achieving students with low incomes into these elite schools, according to their website.

There are currently four main ways in which Muhlenberg is planning on seeking out these students. One of these ways is that the College plans to better identify talented students through more in-depth recruitment of qualified high school graduates, as well as transfer students from community colleges.

Additionally, the College also plans to increase the number of Pell Grant-eligible students and the number of first-generation college students.

"Pell Grants are need-based federal grants typically given to families with adjusted gross incomes of less than $60,000 per year," says Rob Springall, vice president of enrollment and head of the initiative.

Another way Muhlenberg plans to seek out ATI-eligible students is by prioritizing need-based aid in order to make Muhlenberg an affordable option. Lastly, the College will try to retain and graduate lower-income students at rates that are similar to their higher income peers.

What is unique about Muhlenberg's involvement with ATI is that there has already been an increase in diverse students over the past few years; therefore, Muhlenberg chose to enter ATI for slightly different reasons than other institutions, as outlined by Springall.

Muhlenberg's goals for joining ATI revolve around learning from other schools involved and using the ATI framework to help find students who are ATI applicable.

These goals mentioned above will help Muhlenberg "learn from the 99 other member institutions as they find ways to help students from low and moderate-income families succeed and graduate on par with all other members of their class," explains Springall. "There have already been meetings and webinars to learn more and help inform the College's efforts — large and small — to better support all students."

In addition, Muhlenberg will "use their [ATI] model to build structure around identifying the students who fall under the ATI umbrella, cataloging the activities that Muhlenberg has to support them to successful outcomes and then collect the data over time to make sure what we think might help, is actually helping," adds Springall.

This partnership with the ATI initiative is already helping to strengthen Muhlenberg's diversity.

"Muhlenberg was annually enrolling between eight and 10 percent of its first-year students as Pell Grant recipients," notes Springall. "At eight to 10 percent, Muhlenberg was behind most similar institutions in this measure of economic diversity."

But this past year, things began to change. "The Class of 2022 is almost 20 percent Pell Grant recipients. There is no current target for this percentage, but we are now firmly among — and a little ahead in some cases — our peers on this measure," says Springall. "And we are ahead of many ATI members too. In other words, we are doing a large part of what ATI seeks to do: enroll more low and moderate-income students."

The end of an era

By Sydney Coplin
News Editor

After a full two-year run on campus, The Courts residence hall is expected to officially close down at the end of next semester and will cease to exist by Fall 2019.

"The Courts houses 40 students," says Courtney Stephens, assistant dean of students and director of housing and residential life. "The number of filled beds shifts throughout the year with room changes, students going and returning from abroad, etc."

Mia Panzak '21 is one of the students who currently resides in The Courts in a single occupancy dorm room.

"When deciding where to live, Courts was my last choice," explains Panzak. "Now that I'm living here, I actually really like it, and while it may not be the best dorm on campus, it's in a convenient location and has everything I need. It was a good housing alternative and now that it's being removed, I look forward to seeing what the space is going to be used for next!"

Originally built as a short-term solution to a shortage in housing due to "a combination of a larger incoming freshman class, heightened retention rates and the closing of a fraternity

see **Courts** page 3

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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ADVERTISING POLICY

We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

Monday, November 5
Injured employee- 1:15 p.m.
At the Life Sports Center there was a report of an injured employee who was transported to the hospital by Campus Safety.

Transport - 3:00 p.m.
There was a report to transport a student back to campus from the hospital.

Tuesday, November 6
Sick student - 2:08 a.m.
In the Courts, there was a report of a sick student. The student refused further treatment or transport.

Drug violation - 4:51 p.m.
On Tilghman Street, there was a report of possession of drug paraphernalia. Items were brought to Campus Safety and placed in the evidence locker, and the incident was referred to Dean of Students.

Suspicious person - 2:47 p.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of a suspicious person, investigation to continue.

Wednesday, November 7
Lost property - 1:45 a.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of lost prescription medication.

Harassment - 2:43 p.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of harassment. Investigation to continue.

Fire alarm - 8:45 p.m.
In Moyer Hall, there was a report of an alarm sounding. Allentown Fire Department responded and Plant Operations was notified to correct the issue.

Thursday, November 8
Welfare check - 3:03 a.m.
In the Village Upper Lot, there was a report to locate an individual. Contact was made, Allentown Police Department responded and transported the individual to his residence.

Injured student - 10:28 p.m.
In Center for the Arts, there was a report of an injured student. Muhlenberg EMS responded and the student was transported to the hospital by Campus Safety.

Friday, November 9
Fire safety violation - 10:23 p.m.
In Walz Hall there was a report of a discharged fire extinguisher. No suspects at this time.

Saturday, November 10
Sick student - 9:36 a.m.
There was a report to transport a student to the hospital.

Fire alarm - 9:15 p.m.
In Walz Hall, there was a report of a fire alarm sounding from cooking. The system was silenced and reset.

Suspicious person - 5:45 p.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of asuspicious person, area checked and investigation to continue.

Sunday, November 11
Alcohol violation - 1:37 a.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of an alcohol violation. Individuals identified and spoken to. No further incident.

Alcohol violation - 1:45 a.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of an alcohol violation, individual identified and and transported to the hospital by Campus Safety.

Disabled vehicle - 2:46 p.m.
In the parking lot, there was a report to jump start a vehicle. Upon arrival, the vehicle was jumped and running.

Thanksgiving Meal Packages

Bring home a delicious Thanksgiving meal
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THE LAST DAY TO ORDER IS FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH

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FROM **COURTS** PAGE 1

house," as indicated by an article in The Weekly from Sept. 2016, The Courts debuted on campus in Fall 2016, joining the roster of other on-campus upperclassmen residence halls at the time.

When The Courts was first introduced to campus, it was presumed to be a secondary option for students who had requested to live in Brown Hall; therefore, it was all-female at the time. That did change this year.

"We received requests from male students and were able to make it co-ed this current year," says Stephens.

Deemed as temporary from the very beginning, The Courts was expected to last two years, three at most.

"The Courts was originally installed due to a temporary influx of residential students," explains Stephens. "A slightly larger than expected incoming class, Muhlenberg's high retention rate for returning students and an increase in the number of students transferring to the College acted as major contributing factors to the need for additional upper-class housing spaces. As this is no longer the case, we are able to make the change."

The official announcement of The Courts' departure was revealed in an email sent by Stephens on Nov. 2. According to the email, the temporary living facility will be physically removed from campus over the summer, so it will not be an option in the housing lottery next semester.

"We annually review the number of spaces available on campus," says Stephens. "As we have enough beds to house the student population - both current and projected - the decision was made to proceed with the plan to only rent the Courts for two years as scheduled, with the possibility of a third."

The Courts' absence is not expected to have any negative effects on students trying to figure out housing for next year, assures Stephens.

Many college campuses across the United States, even right here in the Lehigh Valley, have been experiencing issues regarding housing shortages, forcing students to seek housing off-campus. Just last month, Lehigh University revealed that rising juniors and seniors would be forced to live off-campus next year due to the removal of an on-campus apartment complex, according to a report by WFMZ 69 News.

SYDNEY COPLIN / THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

The Courts have been on campus since 2016.

Despite the removal of The Courts, Muhlenberg is not expected to have any of these same issues occur.

"Housing on campus is impacted by the number of students who choose to study abroad, transfer, graduate early, commute, and/or are granted permission to move off-campus. These numbers fluctuate from year to year," explains Stephens. "However, we work with the Enrollment Management Team to make informed decisions about residential projections."

There are also plans in the works to build a brand new upperclassmen living facility, as indicated by the Campus Master Plan. Stephens notes that planning meetings regarding the new residence hall will begin this semester.

In addition, more updates regarding what will happen to the space where The Courts are currently located will be provided next semester.

Telling the untold through the documentary storymaking minor

BY LAURA SCHWARZ
STAFF WRITER

PHOTO COURTESY OF LORA TAUB-PERVIZPOUR

Documentary Storymaking Capstone students Spring 2018: (Left to Right) Luke Madronal (Lafayette), Nely Mottina (Muhlenberg), Laura Pezzulich (Muhlenberg), Annie Diaz (Muhlenberg), Emmia Newman (Muhlenberg)

Since the Spring of 2016, Muhlenberg students have had the opportunity to minor in Documentary Storymaking a unique program shared with Lehigh University and Lafayette College. Described as a "multicampus, multidisciplinary program that provides students an opportunity to integrate documentary making into their undergraduate studies," this minor is an exciting and unusual opportunity that utilizes the Lehigh Valley Association of Independent Colleges (LVAIC) to forge new connections and experiences across the Lehigh Valley.

Media and Communication professor Dr. Lora Taub-Pervizpour is the director of the Documentary Storymaking Minor and has witnessed the program's growth from its inception.

"The Documentary Storymaking minor program grew out of conversations that began in 2013, among faculty and staff at Lehigh, Muhlenberg and Lafayette. In Spring 2013, we received our first LVAIC grant to support a "digital storytelling working group." Our aim was to explore the different practices, methods, courses and communities exploring digital storytelling across our campuses. We were especially interested, from the outset, in the ways digital storytelling practices were connecting campus and community partners in efforts directed towards shining a light on and amplifying local stories and voices not often (or ever) included in commercial media," explains Taub-Pervizpour.

After grants from the LVAIC were given to help support the growth of this digital, cross-campus program, the final idea for the Documentary Storymaking minor emerged, and "was submitted to the curriculum committees on all three collaborating campuses, and ultimately approved--unanimously--by the faculty at each campus," says Taub-Pervizpour.

She explains that the minor itself grew "organically" from this storytelling perspective, and describes how the concepts of documentary storytelling itself are closely linked to the principals of a liberal arts education.

"While there are few documentary programs in liberal arts colleges, we believe it is ideally situated in a liberal arts environment. With an emphasis on close observation, deep listening, ethical meaning making and attention to the often underreported or untold stories within a community, documentary study and practice lends itself well to the goals and mission of liberal arts teaching and learning," says Taub-Pervizpour.

The unique focus of this minor has attracted students from diverse majors to the program. Laura Pezzulich '19, a philosophy major, explains how she discovered and pursued this program.

"I am a philosophy major, but I've always been interested in documentary work and I've always had a creative side that I felt I was neglecting while in school. When I stumbled upon the Documentary Storymaking minor on the Media and Communication webpage and I read more about it, I knew I had to pursue it. It was the most difficult thing I've ever done in my college career (I've been a college student since 2010), but it was real--a treasure hard to come by in the safety of academia," says Pezzulich.

She also describes the opportunity she experienced attending the Full Frame Documentary Film Festival in Durham, NC with her class.

"It allowed us to picture ourselves as true filmmakers and apply what we have learned when viewing and discussing the work of professional documentarians," says Pezzulich.

This experience is shared by Media and Communication student, Ali Ruchman, '19, who has recently declared a minor in Documentary Storymaking.

"I've really enjoyed the minor so far. I really like taking classes with people from other schools because it's really interesting to get perspectives from different types of people, especially since many people in my Intro Doc class aren't film or media and communication majors. I've also really enjoyed working with people in the Allentown community on our projects and I look forward to doing more of that in my classes next semester!" says Ruchman.

The minor shares some similarities with the Documentary Research course that is required for the Media and Communica-

SEE **STORYMAKING** PAGE 4

Phishing scams: why are students falling for them?

Muhlenberg teams up with GreyCastle Security in an attempt to prevent further hacks

By Rachel Brodsky
Contributing Writer

Ever see an email that seems legitimate but then you click on it and your computer goes crazy? This is known as a phishing scam online. Phishing scams consist of intentionally deceptive messages that are sent from email addresses that may look authentic, but actually have a goal of stealing data from users. Many Muhlenberg students have recently experienced such instances of phishing scams. Two-factor authentication was implemented for faculty over the summer and was activated for students on Oct. 29 in order to try to prevent these issues of phishing.

Two-factor authentication asks each user to provide a secondary form of identification in addition to the initial username and password on Canvas, Handshake, Google Suite and more.

Two-factor authentication is only required if an individual is trying to log on to their account off campus in order to prevent scams and protect students' online security and personal information. Chief information officer Allen Chen has led this online transition.

Muhlenberg is now working with GreyCastle Security for further expertise and data protection tactics. They recently held a lunch hour to help students set up this new security on their accounts.

Cole Geissler / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Shayna Kronisch '20 and Phedra Henninger, Director of Client Support Services in OIT both played active roles in last month's two-factor authentication table.

"I think that students fall for phishing emails for multiple reasons," says Bryan Murphy, security specialist at GreyCastle. "First is that they often do not have the training to identify or recognize a phishing email. This occurs because many institutions are struggling with how to bring cybersecurity to students as a whole. Two-factor authentication significantly reduces the likelihood that someone else can log into your account,"

Recently, many Muhlenberg students have received emails about part time job offers and tend to naturally open them; a potential job always looks appealing.

"Studies have shown that emails with subjects of password reset or account lockout are the ones most likely to be clicked on," Murphy explains. "They may appear to be from companies that students have accounts with (Netflix, Amazon, iTunes, Spotify, etc.). Other subjects that are always popular are package delivery notices, like Amazon or gift card giveaways, such as free coffee at Starbucks or Best Buy. Job posting emails could also be successful or e-mails appearing to be from the college itself."

There are also general curiosities as to why phishing happens and how these scammers can even access accounts.

"Generally, hackers are after one of two things," Murphy says. "They want you to click on a link that brings you to a fake website to enter your credential or personal information or they want you to install malicious software that can help them gain access to your device and any network that you connect to. This can lead to data being stolen or even worse, having all the data on your device encrypted [locked] so that you cannot access any information on your personal accounts."

Nonetheless, Muhlenberg and GreyCastle Security will continue to work together to secure account online and make sure that students and faculty are logged into safe accounts and will no longer have to constantly worry about getting hacked.

FROM **STORYMAKING** PAGE 3

tion major and is an elective for the Documentary Storymaking minor. Dr. Kate Ranieri, assistant professor of Media & Communication, has been involved with the planning of the Documentary Storymaking minor since the beginning and explains how the Documentary Research class, which she regularly teaches, has "lead to explorations of or engagement with the minor."

"One of our first graduates attributed their inspiration to do Storymaking to their initial work in Documentary Research. They were in Doc Research when we were studying campus life in the forties. Drawing on their initial fascination with the numerous 1940′s cigarette advertisements in the Muhlenberg Weekly, they eventually created a story about the smoking culture of campus during WWII including smoking events called smokers," says Ranieri.

Four students have graduated with the minor to date (three at Muhlenberg and one at Lehigh), and four will graduate with it this May, Taub-Pervizpour explains that with the organization of a multicampus program come the hurdles of "the logistics of scheduling [and] transportation" between schools. Ultimately however, the work of the students involved outweighs any technical challenges encountered along the way.

"When you look at the student work, when you listen to their critical inquiries and compassionate engagement with community members and collaborators, when you glimpse in that shared documentary making experience the possibility of new kinds of connection--that′s the real triumph," says Taub-Pervizpour. "As director of the program, I spend a lot of time thinking about how to lower the barriers for students to participate in the minor--barriers like distance and time. But the work students and faculty are doing, in community, that′s where the real boundary breaking is happening, where documentary practices and partnerships are enabling long standing barriers of understanding, listening and seeing, to fall away."

"The work students and faculty are doing, in community, that's where the real boundary breaking is happening."

In order to complete the minor, students must complete three sequential courses: Introduction to Documentary Storymaking, Legal and Ethical Questions in Documentary Practice and Capstone in Documentary Storymaking as well as two electives which can be taken at any of the three participating colleges but vary each semester. With some of these courses being production focused, Pezzulich recounts her initial difficulties with the minor without having the production background of some Media & Communication majors. However, she explains how she overcame these challenges to shape her experience and make meaningful connections with her own philosophy major.

"I will say that not having production courses before going full force into a production heavy minor was tough, so if you are not a Film Studies or Media and Communication major, the key is to be receptive to your team of students and professors championing you on to make something you are passionate about," says Pezzulich. "One important insight I had was how my philosophy background certainly informed the theory behind documentary narrative and ethics, and as I moved through the minor I noticed how documentary film theory equally began to inform my philosophical perspective."

Even in the first few years of this expanding program, both teachers and students involved in the minor's growth express their praise for the progress and material created thus far. Taub-Pervizpour expresses her gratitude for the collaborative additions of all the professors involved.

"Through the work of its founding faculty and staff, including Jenna Azar, Aggie Ebrahimi Bazaz and Kate Ranieri at Muhlenberg, Andy Smith and Nandini Sikand (Lafayette), Julia Maserjian, Jack Lule, Greg Reihman, Tamara Myers, and John Pettegrew (Lehigh), the minor has continued to evolve during its first three years. Our sense of the possibilities for documentary storymaking in the Lehigh Valley has deepened, as have our experiences pursuing a documentary pedagogy that is rooted in, responsive to, and caringly shaped in dialogue with community collaborators," she says.

"This minor truly embodies the apex at which one can experience a liberal arts education."

Pezzulich reflects on the benefits of the program's multicampus nature and how the diversity of the collaborative colleges themselves supported her own growth and learning.

"I felt fortunate to be able to work with professors and students from Lehigh and Lafayette. The campuses are all so different which was great because you learn that you have technical and emotional resources through professors and students all over. I became more thoughtful, more aware of important issues, more compassionate, more inquisitive, more positively skeptical, and more connected to Muhlenberg because of this minor," she says.

The minor's description explains that "the study of documentary histories, theories, and practices is a way for students with diverse academic interests to develop digital literacies that complement the research and writing skills they are developing in their majors."

This interdisciplinary focus as well as the program's reach across multiple campuses displays the unique and immeasurable benefits of this minor's application. The community based core of the Documentary Storymaking minor poses exciting opportunities for the telling of unheard stories in the Lehigh Valley at large, but also in Allentown and at Muhlenberg specifically. As Pezzulich describes it:

"This minor truly embodies the apex at which one can experience a liberal arts education."

> "Bear witness. Be honest. And be careful not to exploit."
>
> - Téa Obreht

"Finding the sunrise"

Moving Stories 2018 embodies love and loss

By Ellen Powers
Staff Writer

This past weekend, Muhlenberg's Department of Theatre and Dance presented *Moving Stories*, a production featuring pieces choreographed by 10 Muhlenberg students, as well as one choreographed by Muhlenberg faculty member Teresa VanDenend Sorge. All 11 pieces were completely original, and incorporated styles such as ballet, modern, hip-hop and more.

Each piece stood out in its own way from the other pieces in *Moving Stories*. The talent exhibited by the dancers on stage and the choreographers behind the pieces was remarkable, continuing to wow the audience throughout the performance. The dancers were able to move their bodies in seemingly impossible ways. The performers conveyed emotions ranging from joy to love to loss to fear masterly, enhanced by the amazing work of the choreographers. Even more impressive was the fact that several of the student choreographers not only created their own pieces, but also performed in other pieces in the show.

The first piece of *Moving Stories* was "Stick and Stone" by Morgan Litzenberger '20, whose piece about different types of abuse, coupled with text from Edgar Allan Poe's "The Raven," was both haunting and compelling, a perfect start to the show. Jessica Afflerbach '19 choreographed "between heads and hands," which was lyrical in nature and tackled the theme of relationships, especially short-term ones. "if these cobblestones could talk..." by Tim Janovsky '19 was a lively and fun piece to watch that blended lyrical movement with gestures from different cultures. Nikki Gagliano '19's piece "6:24 A.M." went through an interesting shift in mood, starting frantically with a single dancer in silence and then transitioning into a graceful ballet style with the addition of music to the scene. Faculty choreographer Teresa VanDenend Sorge's piece "it's not so far once you've been there," which originally premiered in 2014, closed the first act of *Moving Stories* in a provocative piece about memory.

Faith Buckley '21 was one of the dancers in Gagliano's piece "6:24 A.M." which was about, as Buckley explains, "finding the sunrise and coming out of a dark place." The rehearsal process for Buckley "started out with finding meaning with the sunrise and creating movement with this [meaning]." Buckley added that the dancers "worked with each other in groups of two to help create movement that Nikki [Gagliano] was able to draw from. She also gave us movement, and we combined it with our own so that we were able to have more material to work from." Dancing in *Moving Stories* was a wonderful experience for Buckley because she was "able to dance as one of the many parts of my choreographer's vision ... it was so interesting to see the progression from what the piece was in the beginning until the time when we danced it on stage. I really treasured finding the meaning within the piece and embodying it for both myself and for an audience." The work of Buckley and all the other dancers in *Moving Stories* really shone through in the precision and mastery with which they performed.

> *"I really treasured finding the meaning within the piece and embodying it for both myself and for an audience."*

Moving Stories' second act opened with Nadia Ureña '19's piece "Enter Player Two." Ureña's piece transported the audience to the world of a video game and focused on the monsters within them. Ureña explained that to gather inspiration, she "actually played video games and just looked at the creatures in the games. I studied what they looked like, how I imagined they felt like, and how they moved/interacted with the main characters in the game and then I translated that to movement." Every dancer was a different monster, and each of them had individual choreography that came out of what Ureña describes as a "very collaborative" process. Ureña had her dancers "improv[ise] movement and then [she] would build choreography and structure off of movement that happened in that moment organically." This process created a compelling and intriguing piece for the audience to watch, and it was a brilliant way to open the second act of the show. ShantellCruz '19 choreographed "Parts. Parting. Apart," which paired beautiful lyrical movement with different emotions between two pairs of dancers. Cruz's choreography served as a bridge between the emotions of the couples and the audience. "Third Quarter Moon at Noon" by Audrey Yan '19 was a fascinating piece to watch; the performers frequently danced as individuals with their own unique choreography, but then they came together with sections performed perfectly in sync, creating powerful moments. Heather Downey '20 drew on her math double major for her piece "Axioms & Automorphisms," choreographing a piece that was jazz-like in style but utilized the precision of mathematical equations. In "Deep Roots Withstand Frost," Jessica Hayward '19 choreographed a stunning depiction of sorrow and community. The final piece of *Moving Stories* was Caitlyn Kraemer '19's piece "Silhouettes Shifted" which began and ended by creating breathtaking tableaus of the dancers while the lighting made them appear as silhouettes, as well as beautiful movement that was brought out by the simple costumes and lighting of the piece.

Each work in *Moving Stories* was choreographed and performed brilliantly. The stories told through dance were all beautifully unique, keeping the audience engaged and awestruck throughout all eleven pieces. Everyone involved possessed a remarkable amount of talent, and this made the emotional response for the audience that much stronger.

Photos courtesy of Scott Snyder.

On her terms:

Rachel Norman ‘19 on her self-created music career

By Hannah Turner
Staff Writer

Rachel Norman is a senior currently studying “abroad” in the New York City theatre program. She has taken this time off-campus to focus on her individual music career, something that has been evolving throughout her time at Muhlenberg.

As a freshman, Norman came in with the intention of being a musical theatre student and singing in an a cappella group. However, this did not necessarily pan out the way that she had planned. Norman took this is an opportunity to explore her individual career and love for music and to push herself further into the industry she knew she wanted to be a part of. “I was frustrated because I missed singing and wanted more performance opportunities, so instead of relying on other people to make this happen, I decided to do it myself. I’ve always written songs and dreamed of being a singer, but the constant rejection inspired me to finally take my career into my own hands and just do it.” Norman’s career officially began in 2016 when she recorded her first single with Threshold Recording Studios in New York, and since then she has been interning, networking and recording to make sure her music gets as many listens as possible.

The push to start her musical journey was not the only resource Norman gained from Muhlenberg. She raves about the free rehearsal spaces and access to equipment, as well as being close to her friends and alumni who help her along the way. She works substantially with Jason Leonhard ‘18, who co-composes a lot of her pieces, and Mia Shmariahu ‘19, who has shot music videos for her in the past. Muhlenberg students will also be supporting her band on Nov. 30 as part of WMUH’s Red Door Concert Series. Henri Reiss-Navarre, Josh Young, Griffin O’Connor, Luke Blecker and Rae Wessel, all class of 2019, will be accompanying her for this event.

“I was frustrated because I missed singing and wanted more performance opportunities, so instead of relying on other people to make this happen, I decided to do it myself.”

So what’s next for Norman once her time at Muhlenberg comes to an end? In New York this semester, she has been navigating the music industry, figuring out how she can get her career on its feet. “I extensively researched recording studios and familiarized myself with the industry terms associated with production/engineering/recording ... I called a lot of people to ask questions about their services and see what was the best fit for me.”

Norman recommends the same for people who are new to the industry. “The more you’re able to do yourself, the less you have to pay other people to do it. I’m also learning that it’s an industry of friends working with friends. Network as much as you can, and be friends with everyone! You never know who can connect you with who.”

Though the amount of publicity her music has gotten has definitely increased, Norman still thinks that getting to share her experiences and feelings through music is the best part. “My songs feel like poetic journal entries. To be able to share that is really special,” said Norman.

Mia Shmariahu / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Rachel Norman ‘19 sings her heart out in the recording studio.

Commemorating 100 years of the Armistice

Students and faculty make music in remembrance

By Alana Noehrenberg
Staff Writer

On Sunday, Nov. 11, the Muhlenberg College Music Department held a performance titled “In Remembrance: A Concert for the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice” in the Recital Hall. The small venue rapidly filled with students, faculty and community members alike. As people filed in, quiet murmuring buzzed through the air. An isolated piano was centrally positioned, with a music stand and audio equipment crowded into the far right corner of the stage.

“Thank you for joining us in remembering heroes who fought and died for this country,” said Vincent Trovato, staff accompanist for the Muhlenberg College Music Department, as he warmly greeted the audience. After a few more brief remarks, the first musician, Ashley Hiester ‘19, rose from the audience to play “Menuet” from *Tombeau de Couperin* by Maurice Ravel on the piano. Hiester’s body flowed with her fingers across the keys, playing a light song which danced through the air as she slightly swayed on the piano bench. Hiester’s piece progressed into somber, richer tones midway through, but quickly returned to its prior dainty sound. At the conclusion of her piece, Hiester was met with applause, and, as she smiled, she took a deep bow.

The next performer was the baritone vocalist instructor Brian Chu, who has an impressive performance background. Chu was accompanied by Trovato and performed *Six Songs from a Shropshire Lad* by George Butterworth. After Chu concluded the first of the six songs, a spattering of applause flitted through the audience until Chu, leaning against the piano with a composed expression, signaled for Trovato to continue with the next piece.

Hiester’s body flowed with her fingers across the keys, playing a light song which danced through the air as she slightly swayed on the piano bench.

Chu’s deep baritone was full of a rich vibrato which filled up the entire hall. He was passionate in his performance, with both agony and joy etched onto his face during various songs, his hands gesturing dramatically. The audience showed their appreciation for Chu’s performance with thunderous applause, which Chu directed towards Trovato with a sweeping gesture.

Music lecturer Dr. Darin Lewis performed two pieces by Claude Debussy, “Elégie” and “Berceuse Héroïque.” Both songs had a calming, yet foreboding melody. Lewis’s hands carefully moved across the keys as his wrists rose and fell in soft motions. Alexandra Porter, a soprano and an adjunct voice instructor, was very expressive during her performance, using body movement and facial expressions to convey the painful feeling of the two songs. Her lips trembled with passion, her hands were tightly clenched and her eyes gazed upwards toward the control booth. Porter was accompanied by Trovato on the piano.

Performing “Willie Has Gone to War” by Stephen Foster and the entertaining “Oh, How I Hate To Get Up in the Morning” by Irving Berlin, mezzo-soprano and private voice instructor Maja Lisa Fritzhuspen put on quite a performance. With Trovato on the piano, Fritzhuspen performed her first piece so passionately that it felt as if she had personally known “Willie” and was lamenting his absence. The second song opposed the first — it was a jaunty tune, and, at the end of the song, a man in uniform playing the bugle wandered onto the stage and Fritzhuspen stormed towards him jokingly wrapping her fingers around the man’s neck until his head drooped.

Ralph Brodt, an artist-lecturer of trombone and low brass — and the man who was just mock-strangled — played “I Vow to Thee My Country” by Gustav Holst on the trombone, backed by an electronic ensemble. As Brodt played the last note, his face became flushed with concentration and exertion.

A highlight of the concert was the second to last piece, “Over There” by George Cohan, where the audience was invited to sing along with all of the evenings’ performers, accompanied by Lewis and Trovato on the piano. The words to the song were printed in the program book, and the majority of the audience joined in, their voices intermingling with the performers’.

The concert ended with Brodt playing “The Last Post,” a British military call, to honor and remember those who lost their lives in war.

“Stories run like secret rivers”

Téa Obreht brings charm and wit to Living Writers program

By Brooke Weber
Arts & Culture Editor

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Office of Communications

Author Téa Obreht converses with a student over a copy of her book, The Tiger’s Wife, after her Living Writers reading on Nov. 7.

Within the first five minutes of her question & answer session on the Miller Forum stage, the Living Writers audience has fallen in love with Téa Obreht. Her mind works quickly, drawing connections between different eras and aspects of her own life and the written work embedded in it in seconds. She attempts to mitigate her own wandering enthusiasm — “I don’t know why I just told you that,” she says bemusedly after recounting an anecdote about animals — but we’re right there with her, traveling down the curious roads from her real Balkan roots to her fictionalized Balkan story, piecing together the fascinating process she went through to get there with smiles on our faces.

After this Q&A, Obreht’s Nov. 7 visit to Muhlenberg culminated in a public reading from *The Tiger’s Wife*, Obreht’s first and only novel, and *Inland*, Obreht’s much-anticipated second novel set for a 2019 release. Born in 1985 in Belgrade in what was then known as Yugoslavia, Obreht ultimately settled in the U.S. with her family in 1997 after living in Cyprus and Egypt for a few years. She graduated from the University of Southern California and earned her MFA at Cornell, where she wrote most of *The Tiger’s Wife*. The novel was published in 2011 and won the Orange Prize for Fiction; it was also a finalist for the National Book Award.

Though many students present at the reading and Q&A had only encountered Obreht’s work as part of the Living Writers program (she is the fourth and penultimate author to visit campus this semester), some, like Haley Hnatuk ‘20, had deep connections to Obreht’s work that went back to the foundations of their learning.

“[*The Tiger’s Wife*] was the summer reading book for my first high school English class,” Hnatuk said. “Over the summer, we had been asked to go through and mark up pages that stood out to us for various reasons, so my copy of the book is filled with marginalia that captures the way my fresh eyes devoured the story. It also has a whole bunch of ‘big words’ highlighted that I didn’t know at the time. I just absolutely fell in love with the prose … My copy of this book has been sitting on my bedside table for about five years along with a couple other books that I come back to read various sections of.”

This book is magical in more ways than one — set in a nonexistent Balkan province before, during, and after times of war and conflict, *The Tiger’s Wife* wrestles with family, memory, life and death, among other themes. It’s a novel that’s almost impossible to pin down, but that’s what’s so enchanting about it: it ebbs and flows from timeline to timeline, from story to story. The main narrator is a young doctor named Natalia, whose grandfather’s death triggers the exploration of her memories of him, his own memories and his undiscovered past. Though in the frame timeline Natalia tells of her journey inoculating orphan children in a province fractured by war, there are periodic interruptions of her grandfather’s voice, in which he relates both to Natalia and to the reader his experiences with a “deathless man,” the nephew of Death who can read other’s fates but has none of his own.

Interspersed throughout the book, too, are sections in which the story of the eponymous tiger’s wife comes alive, pieced together by Natalia’s research but told from the perspective of the many characters who exist within it. In this narrative, which takes place during the grandfather’s childhood in the 1940s, a tiger escapes from his zoo enclosure after it is bombed and settles near the grandfather’s remote village, where he is secretly fed by the butcher’s young wife — who ultimately becomes known as “the tiger’s wife” — and is the subject of much horror and fascination on the part of the villagers. Natalia’s grandfather, though, befriends the tiger’s wife when no one else will. The fates of all three of these stories become intertwined in the present-day Natalia, who wanders within them much as the reader does, searching for an answer, for the final piece that will tie them all together.

Though the novel contains elements of the supernatural — the deathless man, for example, and the many folk superstitions Natalia must combat as a doctor — it is rooted in a very real history of conflict between groups in the Balkan peninsula throughout the 20th century.

“One thing that Téa Obreht said was, ‘I didn′t want to write about massacres and ethnic cleansing … I wanted to talk about how people use storytelling to hold and pull their families together.’ This really resonated with me, and I found it to be a crucial quote to understanding her book,” said Caroline Kramer ‘20, a Living Writers student. “This story is not just about a woman on a mission to find out the circumstances of her grandfather′s death — it is about creating and finding family ties through stories passed down from generation to generation … Her ability to mix stories together and conclude with such compelling results for the reader is admirable.”

This praise for Obreht’s style is echoed by Kramer’s fellow Living Writers student Siobhan McKenna ‘19.

“While reading *The Tiger’s Wife* and having the context of the horrific atrocities of the Balkan Wars in mind, my reading of the text was very serious,” McKenna said. “During Obreht′s reading, the text appeared much lighter in comparison to my initial reading. I was somewhat surprised by how the dialogue of the characters was in many ways a lot more humorous than what I initially thought. Her reading was enjoyable for this reason and allowed for a different interpretation of the text.”

Enjoyable indeed — Obreht’s reading lent a whole new valence to the book. Lines that before seemed merely to serve as worldbuilding became living entities in and of themselves, Obreht’s intended emphasis shaping them into a lovingly crafted reality. Her voice changed with the introduction of each new character’s dialogue, making the book sound like a one-woman play; the written words floated easily off of her tongue, and she never placed too much weight on any particular turn of phrase. Particularly when reading from one of the deathless man stories, speaking in the grandfather’s voice, Obreht’s creations became conversational, spontaneous, almost disarmingly human. It was an absolute privilege to hear this prose in this way.

Obreht’s responses to student questions were also insightful and sincere — she was engaged with each and every inquirer and expressed interest in what they had to say. When one student asked about the responsibilities of artists who write about tragedies they haven’t necessarily experienced themselves, Obreht responded, “Bear witness. Be honest. And be careful not to exploit.” She also spoke of her experiences in the Balkan peninsula and the aftermath of the wars she was able to avoid: “Borders of the mind can exist for a very long time after physical borders have disappeared … We’re all just trying to find our way, I guess. Trying to find what home is.”

At the same time, Obreht wove her bubbly sense of humor around these moments of seriousness, visibly cringing at things she’d said in past interviews, telling spooky stories of vampire hunting in the Balkan woods, and feigning dramatic anger when a student asked about her upcoming projects: “How dare you!” she bellowed, before apologizing ten times over as the audience roared with laughter.

This new book, *Inland*, is a bit of a departure from *The Tiger’s Wife* — it’s set in the American West in the 1800s — but still holds the same charm and familial love that reverberates throughout Obreht’s premiere work. Though Obreht is “delirious from excitement and fear” about this new book, it didn’t come easy. She shared at the Q&A that in the seven years eclipsed from her first book to this one, “nine out of 10” ideas didn’t pan out. Still, Obreht has not allowed the pressure of her early success to crush her creativity.

Perhaps this is why programs like Living Writers are so vital to Muhlenberg students’ understanding of how writing works in the context of the world. As Kramer said:

“Living Writers is important because it reminds us, as students, that these established authors are not so unlike ourselves. When we bring in writers like Danez Smith and Téa Obreht to read their work, we are reminded of the fact that they were once in our positions — that it is not impossible to become accomplished, and that we are all accomplished just for showing up with open ears to listen and receive. It is refreshing to note that the name on the cover of a book has a face and has multiple stories — not just the one we′ve all read.”

Be sure not to miss the final Living Writers event of the semester, featuring acclaimed author Zadie Smith, on Nov. 28.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY/OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

Bullet wounds

Just over a week ago, the NRA tweeted an article mocking doctors and physicians for voicing opinions on gun control, and doctors responded.

The tweet in question, which was a link to the NRA's Institute of Gun Laws was titled "Surprise: Physician Group Rehashes Same Tired Gun Control Policies" and captioned ″Someone should tell self-important anti-gun doctors to stay in their lane. Half of the articles in Annals of Internal Medicine are pushing for gun control. Most upsetting, however, the medical community seems to have consulted NO ONE but themselves.″

Their feed was quickly filled with carnage. Images of bloody scrubs, sneaker prints in blood-streaked floors, an x-ray of a bullet in a rib cage came back captioned #thisismylane. One doctor replied with a selfie of blood from a gunshot victim splattered on his surgical mask. Another told a story of removing a bullet from someone's spine. Stories of doctors having to tell parents *I'm sorry, your child was lost to gun violence* came flooding in.

"Two signs of the times: another mass shooting and more Twitter outrage," read the first sentence of the CNN article on the issue, hauntingly devoid of all feeling on such an emotional response.

This cynicism is nothing new. For the past two years, the Onion has been sporting headlines such as: "No way to prevent this, says only nation where it ever happens" and "Nation goes whole week without mass shooting," with the body of the article reading "update: never mind." The Weekly optimistically published the editorial "Where will you be when gun control bites the bullet?" last year after the Parkland shooting. About 300 students participated in a national walkout against gun violence this past February (was it really less than a year ago?). A bus took students down to the March for Our Lives in Washington. Students gathered in solidarity after the shooting in Pittsburg, hoping that would be the last time.

We always ask "Is this finally enough? Will this be the one to stop it? Will this finally push them over the edge?" The reality is, it won't. If the death of 25 kindergarten kids wasn't enough, if the death of 48 at Pulse nightclub wasn't enough, what is 10 more. Fifteen. Twelve. You have to be cynical at this point.

Print or digital, the tone has become one of exhaustion: "It happened AGAIN?" has been replaced with "Oh, it happened again."

But never to me, everyone likes to think. Never to me. I have the solution. And it's cocked and loaded right next to me.

Tamaqua Area School District, less than an hour from Muhlenberg, became the first school district in Pennsylvania to allow teachers to carry concealed firearms, according to an article from the Morning Call on Nov. 4.

The school board passed the proposal unanimously. Created by 29-year-old chairman of the board of security Nicholas Boyle, the policy states that teachers who volunteer for the program will receive a $2,000 stipend, a $250,000 life insurance policy, and, if needed, the district will provide them with a firearm. He went on to say that armed police on the perimeters of the buildings were ineffective, citing the shooting in Parkland, Fla., stated the Morning Call. Parents and students, obviously, were nervous about the situation.

Muhlenberg, on the other hand, has almost the complete opposite reaction. Muhlenberg threatens confiscation for possession of firearms found belonging to students, and faculty and staff are not allowed to carry weapons. Only campus safety and other officers are allowed to carry firearms on campus. And with a history of two armed robberies in seven years, perhaps there's little reason to worry inside the Muhlenbubble.

So which one is the right solution? We don't even know. As a matter of fact, we won't.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC), which studies a number of public health crises, was forced into an agreement with the NRA in 1993 after it released a single study linking a higher chance of homicide in the home to presence of a gun in the home, reported Healthline. As a result of lobbying by the NRA, the CDC agreed that "None of the funds made available for injury prevention and control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may be used to advocate or promote gun control," which came to be known as the Dickey Amendment. That same year, according to Healthline, Congress cut the CDC's budget by the exact amount they had spent on research on gun violence.

Nothing can be done without research to diagnose the cause. If we had calls to repeal the Dickey amendment, we might get somewhere. We might, with a Democratic house, be able to fix these bullet wounds. And, more importantly, prevent any more.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

THE BEAT
WITH MATT BEAUNE

A step in the right direction?

By Matt Beaune
Investigative Reporter

Hello again, loyal readers. For those of you who might have missed my first article, I will be using this column as a platform to bring to light some of the too oft overlooked issues that are plaguing our campus. Problems like the lack of accessible parking near academic buildings, the randomness of the so called "dewey decimal" system the library uses, and, most importantly, the crime wave that has been slowly creeping across campus. From petty theft and vandalism to supernatural phenomena and widespread gang violence, it's impossible to ignore this troubling trend. However, over the weekend I was a firsthand witness to an incident that gives me hope that we are on the right track.

I was walking home around 11:35 p.m. on Saturday night after I had just finished crafting an article on the Seegers bathrooms in the aftermath of a particularly messy Pasta Monday, I saw a group of freshmen wandering Chew Street trying to find the frat party they clearly just pregamed for. I found it odd that they couldn't find the party because I could hear the muffled music from several blocks away, and I was wearing earbuds. Regardless, I put my head down and kept walking because I felt the warm embrace of my bed pulling me towards it. This continued until we were crossing past the chapel lawn and over the music I heard one of them shriek.

When I looked up, I saw a pack of wolves starting to descend upon the tipsy group. And these weren't just any old wolves, I could tell by the look in their eyes and the drool dripping from their lips that they were as hungry as they could be. And these weren't just any old hungry wolves, the way they all came together to prey on these innocent students made me realize that they were trained. And these weren't just any old hungry, trained wolves, they looked like something I have never seen before. Their legs were stubby, their ears were floppy, their howls sounded more like "yip," and their bodies resembled hot dogs, but I know a pack of wolves when I see them!

Obviously, I was completely stunned when I saw this. What was even more surprising than this sight was how calmly the group of freshmen responded to this attack. It was like they weren't even afraid at all, which I'm assuming was fueled by the dubious amount of alcohol in their systems. I knew in that moment they needed to be saved, but before I could act a shadowy figure emerged from the darkness and stood between the hungry pack of vicious wild animals and their meal. It was pretty dark so I couldn't get a great look at who this mysterious being was or what they looked like, but what happened next can be described as nothing less than heroic. The shadow lurched their head back and let out the longest, loudest, and most high-pitched howl I had ever heard in my life. It was louder and longer than the tune that plays from Haas every day at noon.

This filled the wild pack with so much fear that they all turned around and scattered, as if they had forgotten their training and realized that their hunger wasn't their biggest threat. Strangely enough, the same happened with the group of party-goers, who quickly turned and ran back the way they came before thanking their savior, which was objectively very rude of them. Once their job was done, the enigma disappeared as quickly and mysteriously as they arrived.

I had to stop to take stock of what just happened. A tragedy was averted and the perpetrators got a taste of a new threat to their treachery. But the introduction of this shadowy figure brings a whole slew of questions to mind. Who are they? Why did they feel the need to stand in and help?

And, most importantly, is this the hero that Muhlenberg needs to rid the sidewalks of the horrors that we've been seeing? In this turbulent time, one thing is for sure- if we ever figure out who this brave, selfless, and likely incredibly handsome hero is, they deserve all the praise in the world.

The time for me is now: why you should join my cult

By Bill Bamser
Humorist

Oh ho ho. Everything is me, as it shall always be! In case you can't get that through your pea-sized brain, I'll elaborate. You'll have to forgive me if I don't explain this well because this is like the green giant explaining peas to an ant, I know you won't get it but I'm gonna do it anyway.

Ever since I started writing for this paper I've been mentally stalked and physically mocked by the former Op/Ed Section Editor, I don't even want to say his name I'm so peeved by his existence, but I also know none of you pea kids are gonna figure it out, so his name is Will Wamser. There, I said it. He has been tormenting me ever since I first wrote about him oh those many weeks ago.

Will hasn't even been the one stitched into my psyche, it's the idea of Will. Now, I will admit that the first article I chose to write about Will Wamser, but since then this paper has kept assigning me stories about him. I was forced to interview him and then I was forced to write an article clarifying that I'm not him (which I am not).

And finally, last week I was able to write about what I truly wanted to, what mattered to me. Snapchat geo-filters, something which has always been a huge part of my life and I needed to share with the world. And it was great!! It has given me so much power.

There have been two types of responses to the article. Firstly, everyone's praise and love has been overwhelming and has inflated my ego to a dangerous level. Secondly, many people seem to believe I am Will Wamser, and continue to congratulate him on my achievements. This has made me bitter and cold to the world. This has made me realize that it is only I, Bill Bamser, who understands this world and it is me alone who can bring peace to the lone souls of this dank hole.

This is why I am opening a cult-no wait it's a religion! I've been told to call it a religion. My religion (wink wink) is "The Second Church of Bamser," the first church of Bamser was already taken. This is a cult built on a foundation of love. It is I who loves you and no one else. Listen to this, I love you, get it? Now I'm sure you're sitting there thinking, "I've been burnt by cults in the past, what makes this one different?" Well, we actually love you and we actually work. As a group we shall take down all those who has accosted us with their false names and their disrespect. We also do a lot of fun projects! We are currently working on a giant claw so we can steal the sun.

The truth is, you need me. Look at how many people loved my article, I have such influence. I would like to use that influence for good, to benefit both of us, to benefit you. Please don't make me use my influence against you. Plus, this is so easy to join! Just ask some of my favorite prisoners!

Hold on, my PR guy is telling me I shouldn't say prisoner. Then let's ask some of my favorite servants. I'm being told that servants doesn't work either. So, we are gonna be asking some of my best friends! Big ups to Elizabeth Rosenthawl for helping me out with all this PR stuff. She is now telling me not to use her name, so let's call her Beth instead. Thanks Beth!

Anyway, let's hear some of my best friends say why they love it here! [**Name redacted**] says "I, like Bill, kept getting mistaken for others, but it is through his power that I have been able reclaim who I am. And all it took were my kids!" That sounds convincing to me, but let's talk to [**Name redacted**] to see why they joined! "It came down to finding the power in Bill, he can do terrible terrible things, but they are great and he is great and he even took my kids!"

Let's hear from one more best friend, [**of course it's redacted**], who says "Bill is a god, no two ways about it, the fact that he allows me in his presence brings me hope for this world (and it was all for the low low price of my kids) but let me be sincere for a moment, I truly feel at home and… wait who's that?"

I apologize for my best friend there, but someone seems to have just entered the room, I can't tell who it is yet but he's stepping out of the shadow as I type. Ok, I am turning my head to look at who this person may be. And… *ghasp*.

Oh no, oh no oh no oh no.

He's here.

Dear reader, you'll stick with me no matter what, right? No matter what. Because Will Wamser has just entered the room and he looks hot, pissed and sick as a dog. I am currently writing this as I bravely cower behind my golden shrine (it was a gift from the pope) and I hear Will Wamser slowly approaching. Dare I turn to look? There is a crack between shrine me's legs, I'm going for a peak. I don't believe what I am seeing, best friend after best friend is attempting to tackle him, but despite Mr. Wamser's sickly nature he is throwing them off with ease. Excuse me, I must defend my home and my being, wish me luck. I love you.

…

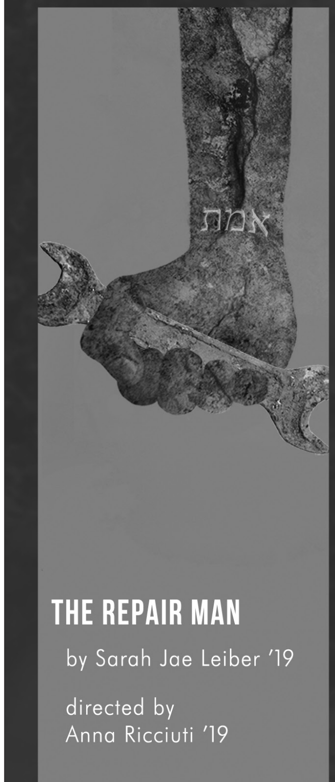
Cough, cough

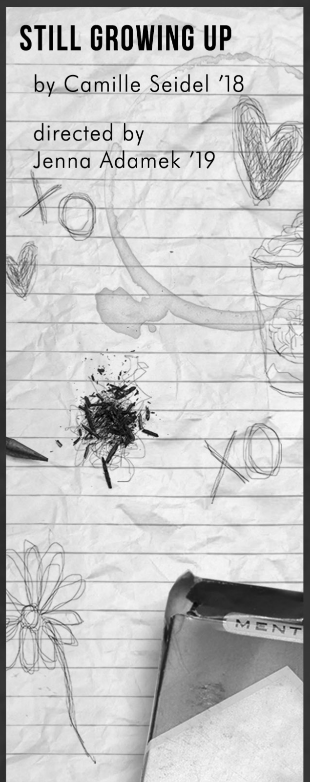
Bill Bamser is dead and Will Wamser is back, though very hurt in the process. I am Will Wamser and I killed Bill Bamser for the good of the world. I wish you could have seen the battle it was quite the showing. It was too cool to describe with any words that I know, and I know a lot of them. It's ironic that this all started with me leaving the Muhlenberg Weekly and it is ending with me right back here. I have defeated the monster I created, but he has defeated me. It is with my dying energy that I am typing this. It's true, I'm hitting god up on the greatest facebook of all, heaven.

I'm just glad that my last words are through the Muhlenberg Weekly.

Note from the Editor: We send our thoughts and prayers out to Will Wamser's friends and family as we mourn with them.

Muhlenberg College
Theatre & Dance





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Skipping past Skidmore

Women's basketball wins first ever season-opening OT game

By Alex Blum
Contributing Writer

After closing the regular season last year-with an overall record of 22-4 and in-conference record of 17-3, the Muhlenberg women's basketball team is ready to get back to work. On Saturday Nov 10, the Mules step onto the court for their opener, on the road, against the Skidmore College Thoroughbreds up in Saratoga Springs, NY. Following the game, the ladies will be back at Memorial Hall to tip-off the annual Scotty Wood Tournament. After a successful regular season and with an unfortunate bounce from the playoffs in the semifinals against Haverford, the squad is back with seven new freshman, high expectations and a strong desire to obtain their fourth Centennial Conference Championship in five years.

The season has not truly gotten underway, yet Coach Ron Rohn has been thoroughly impressed by what he has seen from his group. "I have been impressed by the athleticism and overall intensity that this team plays and practices with. I also like the depth and versatility of this group as we have a large number of players who can score, rebound, defend, and play multiple positions which should serve us well in terms of being able to answer whatever questions opponents ask of us" said Rohn. The Mules are determined to have their hard work in the gym pay off when the games matter and ready to showcase that they have not lost a step after losing four seniors to graduation. The team did, however, bring in seven new freshman and Rohn has also been pleased with their transition and their superb talent. "All seven freshmen bring unique talents and abilities to our team and will only add to our success. They are all long, athletic, and can score. As they adjust to the college game and our system, all of the freshmen will make contributions as the season moves forward. They are very talented. I know that our team will continue to be the one to beat in the Centennial Conference for at least four more years with the freshman class we have," Rohn added.

> **"This has the potential to be just as good or even better than last year's team. This team will be different."**

The Lady Mules may not have obtained the result they wished last season, but it has only motivated and fueled them to reign supreme once more. "With the loss of four seniors, it left really big shoes to fill, but this season is really all about us and we're focused on working with the talent that we have. The loss has only made us hungrier and we ultimately want to do it for ourselves,6 re" said guard Sara Dilly '19. Their first opportunity on the road back to the CC Championship and the Division-III Tournament came against Skidmore. Although it may have been opening day, the game was still a thriller. The squad escaped OT with the 49-46 victory. Leading the way in the low scoring affair was Carley Hamilton '19 with 15 points, six rebounds, and one steal. Hamilton was tied with Ashley Polera '20 in minutes with 34. "After switching to zone from man, it generated a lot of energy and we were able to find success. We didn't turn the ball over as much, got better looks on offense, and we were able to get more boards" said Dilly.

The season is young and the road win is hopefully an indication of the success to come. "Without a doubt, this team is one of the favorites to cut down the nets again this year. This has the potential to be just as good or even better than last year's team. This team will be different," said Rohn. The ladies return home for their game against Penn State Berks for the Scotty Wood Tournament. "This team strongly believes in the montra 'Tradition Never Graduates' and they are on a mission to prove it this year," said Rohn.

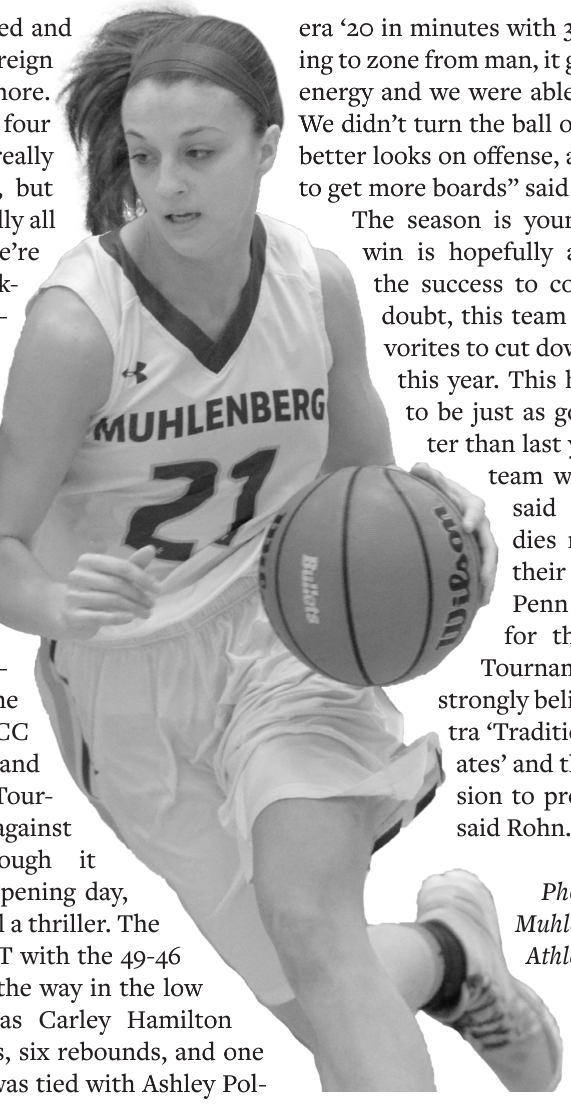

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Athletics.

Winding up in Wisconsin

By Matt Riebesell
Managing Editor

The Cross Country program hit the course of DeSales University to participate in the NCAA Mideast Regional, a race which had implications for any bids Muhlenberg runners would receive to race at the National meet in Winneconne, Wi.

Corey Mullins '19 was the only active member of the program who had participated at a previous national cross country event. This time Mullins finished twentieth, a finish which earns the established distance runner a spot on the all-region team. Mullins has earned all-region honors in three cross country seasons.

As a team the men finished seventeenth in the Mideast. This is the second highest finish for the men in the last four seasons, with their best finish at eighth in 2016 and their lowest finish of twenty first in 2017.

In the women's six kilometer race two freshmen topped the leaderboard for the Mules. Abby Dalton '22 and Marielle Avola '22 placed twelfth and nineteenth respectively, finishing under 30 seconds apart from each other.

The impressive finishes by the young Mules guaranteed Dalton a bid to nationals, and Avola just missed a spot as well. Avola needed both Carnegie Mellon and Haverford — the third and fourth place finishers at the regional meet — to earn at large bids for the national event. Unfortunately only Carnegie Mellon could capture the at-large bid, leaving Haverford and, in turn, Avola without a ticket to Wisconsin.

As a whole the women finished in the top 10 in their field of 47, their first time cracking the top ten since the 2015 season when they finished eight.

This was the third time the Mules have run in Center Valley, Pa (where DeSales is located), more than they have in the past three seasons.

As Dalton continues to prepare for Winneconne the rest of the program turns their sights on the winter track season which kicks off at Lehigh University on Dec. 1.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY SPORTS

The Weekly is looking for new writers and editors for Spring 2019!

Contact bergweeklysports@gmail.com

Tapping into the fountain of youth

Four freshmen in starting lineup during Mules' opener

By Brandon Kossin
Contributing Writer

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Athletics

Mike Morreale '21 dribbles down the court with a Moravian defender draped on him.

The Muhlenberg Men's Basketball team finished last season with an overall 11-14 record, with a 9-9 Centennial Conference record. They finished sixth overall in the conference, and had impressive victories against nationally ranked powerhouses Swarthmore College and Franklin & Marshall. At the end of last season, the team lost five senior players including: Nick Rindock, Jeanlee Baez, Nigel Long, Alex Mitton and Owen McLeod. To make up for the loss of these five seniors, Coach Hopkins recruited a rather large freshman class.

The Muhlenberg Men's Basketball team started their season this past Saturday at Skidmore College, traveling to Saratoga Springs, New York. Hopkins's opening day starting lineup consisted of guards Dan Gaines '22 and Brendan Hughes '19, forwards Spencer Duke '21 and Mike Morreale '21, along with center Dallas Hoffman '22. Unfortunately, the Mules were not able to walk away with a victory in their first go around of the season. The final score of the matchup was 75-69 in Skidmore's favor. The Mules started the game out slow, getting open looks that were just not falling. They were outscored 36-24 in the first half of the game. However, as the game progressed the Mules started to get more comfortable, shaking off their offseason rust. In the second half, more shots began to fall, and the younger players were beginning to get in a groove. They outscored Skidmore 45-39 in the second half, shooting 52 from the field. Morreale and Hoffman lead the way, each scoring 16 points a piece, with Gaines tacking on 15 points. Despite this close loss, Hopkins is optimistic going into this season. "Progress not perfection. We are hoping to make progress and get better every single day, knowing that it won't always be perfect. Mistakes are going to be made but we want to make sure that we are making them while giving 100 percent effort and that we learn from them and keep moving forward," Hopkins responded when asked what the team's motto was for the season.

He believes there is good reason to be excited about the group they have together. "This year we have a group of 14 guys that are 100 percent bought in to changing the culture of Muhlenberg basketball. Brendan Hughes has done a great job of setting the tone with the younger guys of what it is going to take, both on and off of the court, for us to be successful. So far, this year's team has embraced the importance of competing and communicating on a daily basis. They have done a great job of holding themselves and each other accountable to higher standards than we did last year," Hopkins said of his squad. The Mules will be traveling to King's for another away game this Tuesday and then host the Scotty Wood tournament this weekend. With Hopkins leading the charge, the team's expectations are sky high this year.

Wrestling wins Electric City Duals Championship

By Jason Grant
Contributing Writer

> *"I think in order for us to be successful as a team we have to just get at it and grind ... hard work pays off and our team works hard as hell."*

The Muhlenberg Wrestling team enjoyed a successful weekend, winning all four meets and capturing the Electric City Duals for the second consecutive year. This year the event was held in Scranton, PA with the Mules capturing the title at home last year. The team went 4-0 on the day defeating Lackawanna, Scranton, and Keystone all in convincing fashion. The other win was over Oneonta, a team that finished tenth at the NCAA championships last year, and was perhaps their most impressive on the day, winning a tightly contested bout 23-18.

Some of the standouts from Sunday's win include Jimmy Fratantoni '19, who was an undefeated 4-0 at 184, with two pins. However, when he scored a technical fall against Oneonta, Fratantoni became the sole leader for careers technical falls in Muhlenberg history. Another milestone came when Gennaro Cerminara '22 recorded his seventieth career win by major decision against Lackawanna. Cerminara has been the Mules most dominant wrestler over his previous three years, and was first in the 197 weight class in the Centennial Conference last year.

While seniors Fratantoni and Cerminara were the Mule's usual big contributors, the Mules relied heavily on some of their younger guys. Billy Moore '22 and Angelo Mahaffey '22 picked up three wins a piece in their first collegiate tournament. In fact, teammate Alex Helpin '21 singled out Moore on his performance, "I think one of the standouts on the season right now is Billy Moore. He just gets after it and competes. He went 5-1 at his first college tournaments and that's really impressive." Moore recorded two pins to go along with a major decision on Sunday.

The team finished sixth in the conference with an overall record of 7-9 last year, but Helpin thinks the Mules are primed for a breakout season based on the team's unmatched work ethic. "I think in order for us to be successful as a team we have to just get at it and grind. Work harder than the other teams. Hard work pays off and our team works hard as hell," Helpin said.

The squad is looking to build on its early success as they host the Scotty Wood Duals this week on Saturday, November 17. The Mules came into the season ranked seventh in the Centennial Conference preseason poll, but with the addition of some promising young freshmen in Moore and Mahaffey and their senior core, they seem to be in position to compete above their weight.

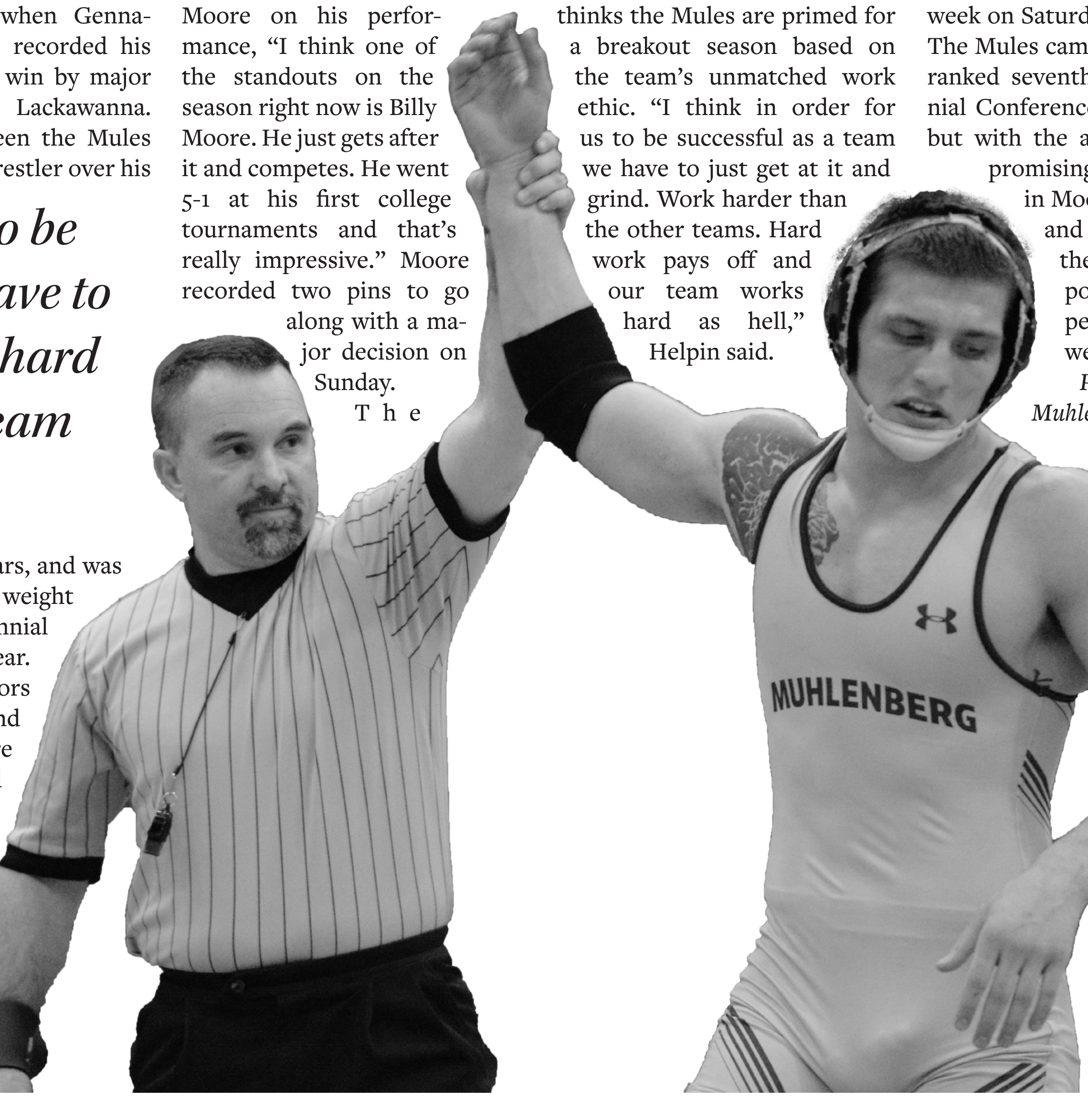
Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Athletics

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Dig in for DelVal

By Alex Horowitz
Senior Staff Writer

In their last game of the regular season, the Muhlenberg football team cemented its case for a spot in the national playoff tournament.

Playing its annual game against Lehigh Valley rival Moravian, the Mules were dominant on both sides of the ball in a 53-7 victory that capped off their regular season with a 9-1 record. Quarterback Michael Hnatkowsky, '21, completed 17 passes on 21 attempts, throwing for 208 yards and 3 touchdowns. Hnatkowsky just completed his sophomore season, but his first as a fulltime starter for the Mules, and is looking to make a name for Muhlenberg College as the team enters national competition this upcoming weekend.

In order to make the playoffs though, the Mules had to earn a win against Moravian, who they play each year in the final game of the regular season. Fortunately, the team's gameplan was executed perfectly, which is a testament to all sides of the ball on the field, as well as the coaching staff.

"We were able to execute the great game plan that coach Milne came up with for the Moravian defense," said running back James Diggs, '21, who ran for 83 yards and two touchdowns on the ground, "Each week coach Milne comes up with a brilliant game plan for our opponents and we just try to execute it to the best of our ability. This win was important to us because it clinched a share of the conference for us and that's something we haven't done in 8 years so it was special, but other than that it was another team that posed a great challenge for us."

"It is one of our goals each season to qualify for the NCAA tournament."

Coach Milne, who was leading the Mules in his first full season as head coach of the team, added that any win is special, but it was especially meaningful to win a rivalry game that had heavy implications on playoff positioning.

"It is always great to win your rivalry game," he said. "We didn't expect that score but our team executed very well. We played fast from the start of the game, which meant our team really believed in the game plan. Our defense was able to get stops early in drives, which allowed for the offense to have great field position. Anytime we can pin our opponent back and give the offense great field position it's a recipe for success."

Now that the regular season has concluded, the team shifts its attention to its Saturday afternoon matchup against Delaware Valley University, who also posted a 9-1 record this season but was consistently ranked much higher in the national polls than the Mules. Despite the tough task ahead, everyone involved with the Muhlenberg football program is thankful to have an opportunity to compete for top recognition in the sport at the D3 level, and they are ready for the challenge of facing a national powerhouse team.

"It's an honor to be a part of the NCAA playoffs," said Diggs. "It's a chance for us to showcase what Muhlenberg football is all about on a national level and we can't wait to showcase our talents to the rest of the nation. Even though we are in the playoffs our mentality hasn't changed one bit. We still have things to prove and we want more than just to be in the playoffs."

The head coach of the program emphasized that it is important for Muhlenberg to get national looks in this tournament, as typically the program only plays local teams throughout eastern Pennsylvania and the surrounding area.

"It is one of our goals each season to qualify for the NCAA tournament, " said Coach Milne. "Muhlenberg has been an outstanding program for a long time and every time we have the opportunity to showcase our student athletes at the national level is a recognition our team earns."

"It's a chance for us to showcase what Muhlenberg football is all about on a national level."

Whatever happens in the game against Delaware Valley, the game will nonetheless mark one of the final contests for this year's group of seniors. They have been instrumental in leading the Mules to immense success on and off the football field over the past 4 years, and their presence in the football program will be greatly missed.

"This senior class is really special to Muhlenberg," said wide receiver Ryan Curtiss, '21. "They showed us how to be the people and players we are this season and have shown a lot of heart and hope for this team. After going through 4 years in the Muhlenberg football program they have grown to show us the right way in things and how to be the team we are today. They will leave a legacy of greatness because of the people they are and how they led this team to being 9-1 and still going in the playoffs."

This is a special group of seniors, the first group that Coach Milne has had the pleasure of coaching for a full season, and the team is hoping to give their seniors at least a few more games of Muhlenberg football with a deep run into the NCAA playoffs.

Coming up this week in SPORTS

Women's Basketball	Men's Basketball	Wrestling	Football
Muhlenberg vs **Penn St. Berks**	**Muhlenberg** vs **Juniata**	**Scotty** **wood duals**	**Muhlenberg** vs **Delaware Valley**
Friday, Nov. 16 @ 6:00 pm Memorial Hall	Friday, Nov. 16 @ 8:00 pm Memorial Hall	Saturday, Nov. 17 @ 10:00 am Deitrich Field House	Saturday, Nov. 17 @ 12:00 pm Doylestown, PA

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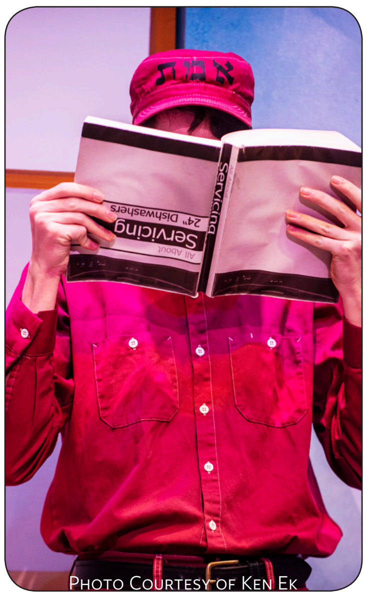

Photo Courtesy of Ken Ek

OP/ED

Val Weisler '20 speaks on her work with the College Admissions Mentoring Program helping low income high school students and her position as a low-income student.

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SPORTS

Lynn Tubman's journey to her corner office in the Life Sports Center has crossed through the Lehigh Valley before, but in very different positions.

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Football makes it to Elite Eight

Football's season capped at NCAA quarterfinal against reigning national champion.

Read more on page 12

Photo courtesey of Brett Dunbar

Bye-bye budget packets

SGA votes to replace semesterly budget with as-needed SCORE forms

By Chloe Gravereaux
Editor-in-Chief

Beginning Spring 2019, clubs will no longer be required to submit a semesterly budget packet or special requests; instead, club treasurers will rely on a Google form called Student Club Organization Request for Expenses (SCORE) form to receive as-needed funding.

Next semester, all funding will remain in the Student Government Association (SGA) account and be distributed to clubs who request money via SCORE forms. The SGA finance committee, a subset of representatives, will meet weekly to go over each form and to make sure requests are meeting all finance requirements, including: impacting the largest number of students, supporting community development, showing responsible budgeting and balancing individual contribution with individual benefit. The committee will then report on the expenses to the rest of SGA at the weekly SGA general assembly, held every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. in the Great Room in Seegers. The general assembly will then vote on any request for more than $1,500. Due to the time required to review each form, it is best to submit SCORES at least two weeks before funds are needed.

Nixing budgets was one of three options the Finance Committee brought before the General Assembly on Oct. 31 in an attempt to make funding requests less complicated for the students and less time consuming for its representatives. The decision to get rid of budget packets received the most votes.

"In this case, we feel like this is the best option, simply because this allows us to continue communication with clubs, only allocate the amount of money that is going to be spent and it allows the finance committee to have a more general say and takes the pressure off the treasurer in helping with the SCORE forms," said Kyle Moore '19, a member of the finance committee.

In the past, when approving budget packets, the SGA treasurer needed to meet with over 100 clubs and go over 100 budget packets which painstakingly outlined all predicted expenses in categories. SGA advisor Steve Dutton, who has advised SGA for the last three years, wanted to change what he believes to be an outdated process inherited from before his time.

"Right now the budget request process for our clubs is very complicated; they have to submit a lot of detail about what they plan to do with their money and categorize in different categories, like how much they're going to spend on food and supplies and services and contracts. We make them break those things down," said Dutton. "When they actually spend this money and when the controller's office records it, they don't use those same line items that we ask for. That was information that was created years ago that we have not updated with what actually happens now in the offices."

Additionally, students tended to over budget themselves. Historically speaking, SGA has given out $90,000 in annual budgets and received $50,000 back, according to SGA Treasurer Gaby Baum '20. In other words, students weren't spending the money they were requesting, money that came from classmates tuition. The point of the new system is not to spend less money, but be more efficient.

"This altered process isn't about giving groups any more or less funding. The intention is to take a multi-step request process to receive and to spend money and reduce it to a one-step process, saving time and energy of all involved in the process" stated an SGA e-mail sent out to the treasurers of all clubs.

The goal of the new SCORE-only system is to make it easier for clubs to get their money and spend it- not to take money away from clubs.

"The SGA Finance Committee will track the spending throughout the semester of each club and compare it to semester's prior and gauge how the new process is affecting groups' spending habits. As we make these adjustments, we will continually accept feedback and assess the process to ensure the quality of service and equity among all recognized groups," stated the e-mail.

SGA is looking to try the system out for a semester and are looking for feedback.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

Monday, November 19
Property damage - 6:11 p.m.
In Prosser Lot there was a report of damage found to the bumper of a College vehicle.

Tuesday, November 20
Fire safety violation - 5:05 p.m.
In Village 4 there was a report of a covered smoke detector. The cover was removed and the student was referred to Residential Services.

Drug violation - 5:52 p.m.
In Village 3 there was a report of drug paraphernalia. The items were brought to Campus Safety and placed in the evidence locker.

Fire safety violation - 5:42 p.m.
In Prosser Hall there was a report of found incense sticks. The items were brought to Campus Safety and placed in the evidence locker.

Thanksgiving Break: Wednesday, November 21 - Sunday, November 25

Monday, November 26
Odor investigation - 6:21 p.m.
In Martin Luther Hall there was a report of the smell of marijuana. The area was checked and nothing could be noted.

Tuesday, November 27
Found property - 9:16 p.m.
In Seegers Union there was a report of a found backpack. A message was left with the owner to pick it up at the Campus Safety office.

Wednesday, November 28
Found property - 9:53 a.m.
In Seegers Union there was a report of a found credit card. A message was left with the owner to pick it up at the Campus Safety office.

Sick student - 1:24 p.m.
In Trexler Pavilion there was a report of a sick student. The student was transported to the hospital by Campus Safety.

Thursday, November 29
Found property - 3:28 a.m.
In Seegers Union there was a report of a found debit card. Campus Safety was unable to locate the owner.

Odor investigation - 10:45 p.m.
In Brown Hall there was a report of the smell of marijuana. The area was checked and nothing could be noted.

Friday, November 30
Drug violation - 11:44 p.m.
In Prosser Hall there was a report of marijuana possession. The students were identified and spoken to, and items were brought to Campus Safety and placed in evidence locker.

Saturday, December 1
Alcohol violation - 12:13 a.m.
In Walz Hall there was a report of an alcohol violation. The students were identified and spoken to. The alcohol was disposed of by Campus Safety.

Drug violation - 6:16 p.m.
In Prosser Hall there was a report of possession of drug paraphernalia. The student was identified and spoken to, and the items were brought to Campus Safety and placed in the evidence locker.

Sunday, December 2
Alcohol violation - 1:14 a.m.
In Walz Hall there was a report of an alcohol violation. Muhlenberg EMS responded and the student was transported to the hospital.

Hit & run - 7:30 p.m.
On Chew Street there was a report of a hit & run to a vehicle, causing damage to the bumper. The investigation will continue.

Order Your Holiday Desserts
Chocolate Yule Log
Moravian Sugar Cake
Chocolate Cut-Out Cookies
Sugar Cut-Out Cookies
diningcomments@muhlenberg.edu
Red Door
Catering
at Muhlenberg College

Brown Hall to remain an all-female living space for next academic year

By Sydney Coplin
News Editor

At the beginning of the semester, students were emailed a survey seeking their input, both quantitatively and qualitatively, regarding whether or not Brown Hall, the sole female-only residence hall on campus, would expand to becoming co-ed. Upon analyzing the results of the survey, it has been determined that Brown Hall will not convert to co-ed, and will continue to be all-female for the 2019-2020 academic year.

The survey was initially emailed to students by Dean Gulati on Sept. 24. The survey was introduced in the email as stating that "Muhlenberg College periodically evaluates and assesses housing policies and practices to ensure that they align with our community values and strategic goals."

"The College introduced gender-neutral housing in the lottery for the 2011-2012 school year, which was the first year students of different gender identities could share a double. In 2015, the signage of 17 bathrooms was changed to gender neutral. Last year there was talk of increasing that number," stated in an Oct. 4 news article by The Muhlenberg Weekly regarding the distribution of this survey and the context of it.

The survey ended up gathering over 650 student responses, according to the "Overall Brown Hall Takeaways" report drafted by Courtney Stephens, Assistant Dean of Students & Director of Housing & Residence Life.

Photo Courtesy of Office of Communications

Former students relax in their triple room in Brown Hall.

Among the student respondents, 206 were first-years, 146 were sophomores, 151 were juniors and 153 were seniors. Over 70 percent of respondents were female, according to Stephens' report.

"Respondents were clearly engaged within the conversation, providing extensive rationale and even more qualitative data that has impacted the ongoing nature of the decision," says Stephens in the report.

The report also notes how important student engagement is in these types of decisions is in addition to "significant research and institutional benchmarking with other colleges and universities."

"We plan to reach out to the student body in a few different facets to hear student voice. While Brown Hall would certainly be a part of that conversation, we also plan to do a deeper dive to assess our current practices and ascertain student comprehension of them," explains Stephens. "Some of the feedback provided by students highlighted that they may not be aware of all of their housing options on campus, and the way selections are offered to students. It also demonstrated that they may not be aware of how other students are impacted by these processes."

As noted by Stephens, there did seem to be some misunderstandings regarding various options that Housing and Residence Life offers to allow for students across any gender identity to live in an environment where they feel most comfortable.

"One of the statements was around if Brown Hall presents a barrier for transgender students or students who don't identify on a gender binary, and another prompt was if Brown Hall limits the housing options for male students," says Stephens. "From the response based on these two statements, it was evident that students do acknowledge that a female-only building has an impact on the residential population as a whole."

Students may meet with members of Housing and Residence Life in order to find a living option that best suits them.

Moving forward, there are potential plans for living spaces based on themes like women's leadership and social justice, according to Stephens in the report.

"We are also planning to collaborate with others across Muhlenberg to identify partnerships to create and/or enhance opportunities for women in general, including from a residential perspective," notes Stephens in the report.

Midterm elections and the importance of student engagement, one month later

By Laura Schwarz
Staff Writer

A month has passed since the Nov. 6 midterm elections, and many Americans are now evaluating and reflecting on the election's results. The close races in many states led to an overall increase in voter turnout which was reflected in Muhlenberg's student body as well.

"Turnout among Muhlenberg students and young Americans in general was much higher than during the last midterm in 2014," says political science professor Christopher Borick. "According to polling among this group; dissatisfaction with the current state of affairs in Washington and in particular President Trump played a major role in getting young voters to the polls."

With many contested races and controversies over voter suppression, the results of the midterm elections are still at the forefront of political and news media. In today's heated political climate, increased voting rates and political engagement seems to be expected.

"A total of 680 current students were registered at 2400 Chew St," explains political science professor Michele Deegan. "We won't know until next year how many were registered to vote in their home counties. 894 people voted here but because our voting precinct includes neighbors, we won't know until the National Student Learning and Voter Engagement project sends us our data that matches all of our students with their voting records, how many of those are actual students and how many Berg students voted off campus or absentee."

Beth Halpern, Director of The Office of Community Engagement, explains another resource Muhlenberg uses to collect data on campus voting results called CIRCLE (Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement).

"[The CIRCLE study] will give us information regarding our voter registration rates and participation rates for 2018. They track both students that voted on campus and those who vote absentee, so it gives us a really good picture of voter engagement," says Halpern.

When going to the polls to vote, students considered a variety of pressing concerns in making their decisions. In a BergVotes Issues Expo held before the election, students cited the issues most important to them, ranging from gun laws and international relations to LGBTQ+ issues and immigration policy.

"Issues like health care, environmental protection and women's rights were among the most salient concerns among college age voters in the 2018 midterms," says Borick.

Not only did Muhlenberg students show up to vote on Election Day, many helped organize a number of exciting campus activities and some volunteered at polling centers.

"We had 26 Berg students participate off campus as Poll Workers or Spanish Language Translators and another dozen or so working with the MCIPO conducting exit polls," says Deegan. "Election Day was packed with activities hosted by BergVotes with campus offices including the Office of Residential Life and Housing's Election Day Party, the Multicultural Life Office Food Truck and the Election Night Watch party, which [was] part of the Election Series. On Election Day and the day after we hosted an election reflection wall, which provided an opportunity to give voice about the election in a private space. We gave out 'I voted' stickers to anyone voting and supporting voters. Sodexo also made a huge cupcake table spelling out 'Vote' in the dining hall."

While voter turnout and participation was higher than usual on Election Day and the weeks leading up to it, it is apparent that continued engagement is of utmost importance even when an election is not imminent.

"What I'm most interested in seeing is if the energy and engagement among Muhlenberg students and young Americans will continue moving forward," says Borick. "I'm optimistic that we will see a carry-over into upcoming years and particularly on campus where groups like BergVotes helped to enhance interest and understanding of the issues and promote engagement."

Professor Deegan is also optimistic about student engagement.

"We are really happy with the level of engagement of the entire campus. 2019 has a lot of local elections including the mayor's race. BergVotes is looking to add new members and continue conversations on campus," she explains.

Continued political interest is necessary for a representative and active democracy and there are many ways that Muhlenberg students can get involved and participate in ongoing political conversations on campus.

"There is so much to do now that the election is over!" says Halpern. "We need to continue to hold our representatives accountable to the issues that are of most importance to us. We need to continue educating ourselves on issues and ensuring that our representatives are truly listening to their constituents. We need to continue to be involved in the process from multiple scales, local to global, to positively impact ourselves and our communities and ensure voices are heard. And, of course, we need to continue registering people to vote and voting. There are elections twice per year so it's not over now!"

Handshake: Making the most of the Career Center

By Cynthia Silva
Staff Writer

Though the fall semester is coming to an end, internship and job application season is right around the corner. In preparation, the Muhlenberg Career Center has resources available to help students, like the Handshake App.

Handshake is an online application Muhlenberg uses to connect students to potential employers. Despite being created in 2014, Handshake has become the leading database for Career Centers with access to over 300,000 employers across the nation. At Muhlenberg, 67 percent of the student body has already logged in, according to Samantha Hof, Director of Employer Engagement at the Career Center.

The Muhlenberg Career Center, located in the lower level of Seegers, began using Handshake in 2017 after it parted from Symplicity, a similar career-services application. The downside to Symplicity was that employers had to submit applications to each school individually.

As for Handshake, the app allows an employer to submit a single application that can go to all their 700 partnered colleges and universities. This model has clearly been successful – Handshake's online community now includes 14 million students, according to their website.

"I work in the Career Center, so I learned about Handshake through their utilization of it," said Emily Searles '19.

In the search for work experience, Searles was using the app to look for internships to get a head start into her career.

"Handshake led me to my internship at Seventh Generation (SVG). Even though I don't want to go into Human Resources at this stage of my life, I still appreciate the opportunity to have explored the field through SVG," said Searles.

But what makes Handshake different from job sites like LinkedIn or Indeed?

"LinkedIn and Indeed have every job that's out there," said Hof.

But with Handshake, postings can be more tailored for Muhlenberg.

"Some [postings] are jobs our employer contacts or alumni has said, 'Here is what we are looking for and we want Muhlenberg students to apply,'" said Hof.

Additionally, the platform gives the Career Center the ability to approve or deny requests for postings. Anywhere between 50 to 100 positions a day are reviewed by the Muhlenberg staff. Therefore, postings are always relevant and to the caliber of Muhlenberg students.

The process to sign up is easier than one may think. Every student automatically gets a Handshake account. To get to the app, students can go through OneLogin, Muhlenberg's application portal, where other applications, like Canvas and Capstone, can be found. Once logged in, the system is intuitive.

Students can customize their profiles to let the system know their preferences for internships or jobs in specific industries or locations.

The Career Center highly encourages doing this because it gives their staff more information to reach out to specific students. When positions come in, the staff can email students with preferences that fall under the position to see if that′s something they′d be interested in.

"Instead of receiving 100 emails a day, it's more targeted," says Hof.

Another tip to maximize the app is for students to set their private profiles to public. Students could be approached by an employer just by having a public profile. Handshake has also taken advantage of their large community by the recently launched Q&A, where students can ask students across the country for career advice.

But for those applying for an internship or job position, the process can be intimidating. That's why the student page of the Career Center website provides resources and videos. Students can find guides on a host of career-related topics, like resumes, cover letters and interviewing.

For some, one-on-one works better. That's why students can schedule appointments outside of business hours to speak with Muhlenberg's career coaches on Handshake. With winter break quickly approaching, students can use that time to connect with the Career Center to get a head start on their careers.

"It's never too early to start," advises Hof. "We are here and willing to work with everybody."

Popping the "Muhlenbubble"

By Rachel Brudner
Contributing Writer

Step outside of Muhlenberg's campus, turn down Liberty, head onto 19th Street and you'll find Hava Java, a coffee shop with hand-painted tables, mugs of every color and pattern hanging from the ceiling, worn shelves packed with used books and local art on the walls. It's the perfect college hangout, yet a Saturday afternoon stroll here is rarely met with the sight of many "Mules."

"I've been surprised in the seven months that I've been here that we don't get that many students here, and often when we do it's usually with their parents," said Crystal Diaz, an Allentown local and employee of the café.

What Diaz has noticed is often dubbed by students as the "Muhlen-bubble," the disconnect between Muhlenberg and the Allentown community, a problem that separates, isolates and distances the college from its surrounding area.

Noting the value of students exiting the campus to explore and connect with the city, Diaz said, "I think that it's really important because the college is literally in our city, very close to a beautiful part of the city for one, but also I think cultivating diversity is really important. I think being part of the community is really important for learning development and growth and connection."

It's a theme which is central to the college, and because of this, the topic is featured in nearly each year's Sedehi Diversity Project, a documentary piece of theatre that is shown to the college's first-year students each fall semester.

"You don't live in Muhlenberg, you live in Allentown!" said Melina Economos '19, who directed this year's iteration of the Sedehi Diversity Project. The project evolves from year to year, aiming to foster dialogue about diversity on campus in all forms, from racial identity, to gender identity, sexual identity, religious beliefs, economic background and everything in between.

Economos had the chance to meet with alumni of the Diversity Project during the process.

"They said, 'over the 13 years of the project it's unbelievable but so believable that people are still talking about the Muhlen-bubble because it hasn't been solved,'" Economos explained. "So it has to be brought up every year because not everybody's engaging with Allentown and not confronting their own conceptions of the Muhlen-bubble."

Eveily Freeman and Beth Halpern, who serve as the directors of Muhlenberg's Office of Community Engagement, agree.

"We'll ask first year students, 'What did you know about Allentown? What excited you about moving to Allentown, Pennsylvania?'" said Freeman. "And it seems to be for many people, that is the first time they thought about the fact that they moved to Allentown, Pennsylvania as opposed to [they] went to college at Muhlenberg. You're doing both things right?"

Halpern and Freeman's work is focused on creating meaningful partnerships between Muhlenberg students and the Allentown community, striving to create unity, equity and positive social change.

"I also think it's part of a liberal arts experience to do something that's not on campus," said Halpern. "If you're really trying to get a breadth of all of that′s around you and really trying to be this holistic, educated person, then you should be taking advantage of everything that's here. And I feel like it's a missed opportunity if you spend all of your time on campus and never do anything in the community."

For students looking to branch out, community engagement is an important way they can create relationships with those outside the Muhlen-bubble, and many Allentown organizations are excited about forming these partnerships. "There are lots of people here that are looking to connect with students, that are interested and eager and also want to be a part of your education and recognize that they're a part of it," said Halpern.

Another effort on campus that aims to create connections between Muhlenberg and Allentown is a new theatre class, called Devising Community. The fall-semester class teaches students about the process of creating devised theatre, encouraging students to create meaningful collaborative performances as an ensemble. The class is working in tandem with the Allentown community to learn about the lived experiences of its immigrant populations in order to strengthen bonds between Muhlenberg and Allentown, and in the spring, this unique class will "make our theatre piece using our research to make performances that includes community stakeholders in acts of shared creation," according to the class mission statement.

Leticia Robles-Moreno, who co-teaches the class with Matt Moore, said, "Deciding not to go beyond 17th Street because the landscape is 'sketchy,' deciding to ride the bus just once a week to go to specific stores and then come back to campus immediately afterwards, or taking our parents/visitors to posh restaurants and not to local family-run restaurants, all of these are decisions that affect the circulation of bodies in this area."

It is imperative, Robles-Moreno believes, that students recognize that each action they take affects those around them.

"Believing that we are contained in a bubble that must be pinched is actually a way to escape from acknowledging our own role in processes of gentrification, displacement and erasure of communities that are connected to us more than we can imagine," said Robles-Moreno.

Robles-Moreno hopes her students will learn to "counteract the individual mini-bubbles in which we try to protect ourselves from whatever we think is 'dangerous,' 'different,' or simply 'unknown.'"

"You have to find what makes Allentown special for you," said Economos, who is also a member of the Devising Community class.

"There are folks here that have been living here a really long time and are really committed to being in this place. There certainly is diversity present in lots of different ways," said Halpern.

Over 51 percent of Allentown's community, as Freeman explained, identify as people of color. "That is actually way more representative of our country and of the world, and it shows all of that nuance in ways that you don't always get in other places for a lot of reasons. Historical and otherwise," said Freeman.

This diversity, as Halpern explained, is an important factor in what makes Allentown special. "[Eveily and I] value the opportunities to connect with people who are different from you and to expose yourself, or for us, our kids, to things that are different and people that are different," she said. "It's important to our work. And connecting folks in community and to the learning that we believe is possible when you connect with folks with very different life experiences."

"When I think of the books I love, there's always a little laughter in the dark."

-Zadie Smith

Zadie Smith closes Living Writers program with life-altering talks

By Brooke Weber
Arts & Culture Editor

Photo Courtesy of Office of Communications

Living Writer Zadie Smith conveys an idea during her public discussion in Empie Theatre.

As I sit down to write this article and stare for a few seconds at the blank Word doc up on my laptop screen, I inexplicably and quite suddenly burst into tears. Perhaps it's because this piece marks my last Living Writers article, the finale of a series that I've immensely enjoyed writing and has brought me so much this semester. I think it's a bit more likely, though, that this wave of emotion is the result of the first time I'm truly considering that, for an instant, my life and the life of an author who has profoundly changed it aligned.

Experiencing Zadie Smith's presence on this campus, the act of hearing and processing her words as she invented them in real time (make no mistake, listening to Zadie is indeed an *act*), meeting her, if only for a few seconds – all of it was heaven. Or maybe it was something different, something less simple and straightforward. Maybe it was what Smith would call "joy," a kind of immense, almost overwhelming sense of pain and pleasure intertwined, a sense of living purely in the moment and understanding at the same time that that moment was finite. Unbearable, yet ecstatic. Singular. Joyful.

Smith's visit on Wednesday, Nov. 28, ended the 2018 Living Writers series with one last question and answer session with the visiting author for the Living Writers class and a final public reading, this time housed in Empie Theatre. A London native, Smith wrote her wildly successful first novel, *White Teeth*, whilst studying at Cambridge University. The book was published when she was just 23 years old. Among her lengthy list of awards are the Orange Prize for Fiction, the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award, the Langston Hughes Medal and several appearances on the shortlist for the Man Booker Prize. Her latest novel, *Swing Time*, was the common read for this year's incoming class at Muhlenberg. For some students, though, the medium of the essay was their point of entry into the world of thought that is Zadie Smith.

"During [my] FYS last spring, Dr. Jill Stephen assigned Zadie Smith's 2009 essay, 'Speaking in Tongues.' … I must've spent about an hour that day gushing about how it felt to encounter such articulate, thoughtful, and insightful writing. Not only did the quality of the essay strike me but also the topic: it felt like she'd taken a concept I'd already considered before but could never really craft into words," said Michelle Rajan '21, a student in the Living Writers course. "It wasn't until a few weeks later, when a friend of mine let me borrow her copy of *On Beauty*, that I fell in love. Pretty much the entire day before my biology final last semester was spent on the front lawn, devouring that book. And while the storyline was interesting, sometimes I couldn't stop reading simply because the way she described a woman putting on chapstick left me in awe. The degree to which she would em-

see **Smith** page 6

Printmaking students collaborate with West Liberty U.

By Arielle Moss
Staff Writer

Every day at six in the evening for one week, students of Professor Emily Orzech's Printmaking 1 class were assigned to stop and reflect on their experiences, to think of the people, objects and surroundings that make up the world, so that they could take photographs and create a portfolio of eight prints.

Once done, their prints were exchanged with West Liberty University's Printmaking 1 class. This print exchange will take place this coming Thursday, Dec. 6, and participants will get to keep the resulting work. Currently, the portfolios are on display in the Trexler Library Info Commons.

The students learned different methods of printmaking including pattern linocut, screen-print and etching. They learned how to mix ink for making desired colors, how to use a printing press, how to carve into linocut blocks, the developing of screens in a dark room and much more.

The purpose of the exchange was to provide a printmaking experience like the ones many artists participate in, and for students to begin print collections, share art and to see the different ways that other artists interpreted the prompt: to create a collage of photographs.

"My favorite part of the collaboration was the ability to share art. I'm told print artists do these exchanges sometimes so it felt like an authentic artistic experience," said Muhlenberg College participant Stuart Hanford '19. "What I like about art is the ability to make something and appreciate the way it looks. The thing I like about printmaking is that you can produce a lot of nearly identical versions of whatever you're making, so it's a lot easier to give them as gifts."

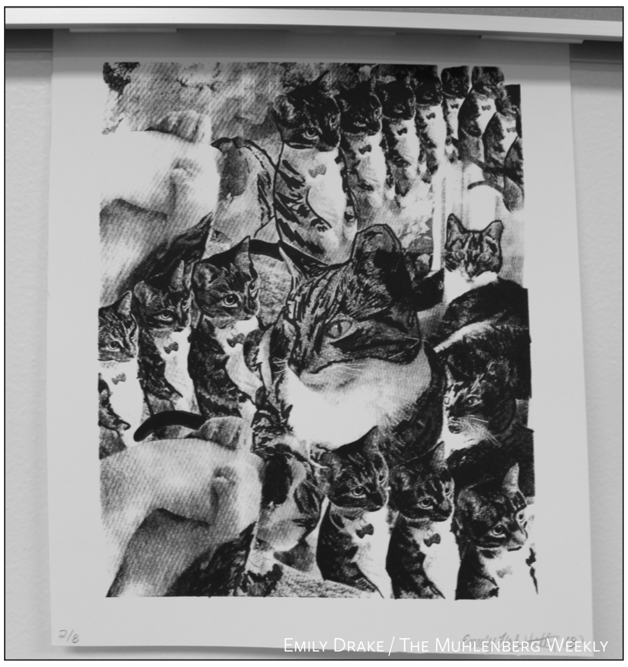
Hanford's collage was a made up of an assortment of things on a beach, a packet of ramen noodles, some books and a bed.

"I'm usually eating, reading in bed, or doing work at 6 p.m., so I would say I had a fairly nondescript subject matter. I don't love the way my print turned out, and that's partially because I don't like my collage, and partially because I had some problems with ink during the printing process itself so the print is far too dark," said Hanford.

Students in Professor Orzech's class were taught how to do a certain type of print and given about two weeks to produce some of their own.

"It's a cool experience creating something knowing someone else, whom you don't know, is going to have an artwork of yours and vice versa," said Muhlenberg College participant Diana Leguizamon '19. "I really like the idea of collecting prints and collaborating with other students to make art. I think it's exciting and it challenges you not only to create a piece that you like and enjoy but to also create something you think will speak to other people and engage them in an interesting way."

Leguizamon made a collage of various images that she photographed. She focused on shapes, lines and patterns that were in her everyday surroundings. Something that she loves about art is that it is a way to process life for so many people and that it can be used as a tool to communicate with others and reach them in a nuanced way. Leguizamon is a Studio Art minor and has been able to dabble in many different forms of art, which is something that she really enjoys. She is able to experiment and find new ways to express herself all while learning so much along the way.


Emily Drake / The Muhlenberg Weekly

The work from the Muhlenberg/West Liberty University print exchange can be seen in Project Room 01 on A Level of the Trexler Library.

"My relationship with art is very personal and long standing," described Leguizamon. "I have always used some kind of art form to express myself throughout my life and find that it is a major outlet for me."

Girls Next Door rock the CA

By Abigail Sherman
Staff Writer

Muhlenberg's friendly all-woman a capella group the Girls Next Door rocked the CA Galleria last Monday, 'wrapping' up their performance season this semester. Their show, titled "Doors next to Girls," featured well-known pop tunes such as "Water Under the Bridge" written by Adele with a solo performed by Francesca Jones '21; "Many the Miles" written by Sara Bareilles with a solo performance by Helena Bryant '21; and "God is a Woman" by Ariana Grande, arranged and performed by co-musical director of the ensemble Eliana Swartz '19.

Muhlenberg friends and family of the group's members attended the GND concert, leading to a packed house and engaged audience. Co-Musical Director Allie Benbenek '20 was thrilled with the outcome of the performance, saying, "I think it went amazing, I'm so proud of them! We learned all of this music so quickly, especially for the new members. They come in and learn 20 songs in a semester. It was a great, great show."

Starting off her first year as one of the musical directors, Benbenek said, "I've been a member for the past two years and I've gotten to watch other musical directors in the past and see how they've been doing it. I just hope to fill the shoes that they had filled previously. Rehearsals typically start with business, whether that be gig opportunities that come to us or other things like Birthday Grams or housekeeping type information. Our lovely president typically runs that portion. After that, Ellie and I like to start off by leading a warmup, to get the energy going and the vocal cords ready! We rehearse so late at night, so it's necessary to warm up so we don't hurt our vocal cords."

Benbenek continues, "I run rehearsals with my [co-director], Ellie [Swartz]; we plan ahead of time what we're going to do. I like to think we've done a great job. I try to keep a positive attitude in rehearsals. If things end up sort of off, then we stop for the night and work on a different song. But I try to keep the positive attitude and positive reinforcement, because if you go into a rehearsal and you're really authoritative, you're not going to get what you want out of it."

Girls Next Door has 14 members, varying from theatre to math majors. The girls support each other and balance their other activities well, as many of them are involved in other performance ensembles and organizations.

Considering the strong female power they were giving off during their performance, Benbenek was excited to share the role she believes that Girls Next Door plays both on and off campus. "We love to have fun and we love to lift other people up. We get asked to do a lot of gigs that are women-empowering. Over the summer we did a gig in Boston that was a women-empowerment conference, and that was such an amazing experience. On campus we find that there's a lot of people that love to watch us to perform, and we love to perform."

Benbenek's method of running rehearsals is clearly working, because the entire ensemble shared a strong sense of sisterhood with the audience, joking with each other and enjoying their performance throughout the show. Commenting on their camaraderie, Benbenek said, "We are all completely, madly in love with each other. During the audition process, we try to look for people who not only can sing great, but fit our style and group mentality. Over the past couple of years, we've found such an amazing group of women, and we are all so empowering and support each other."

New Voices/New Visions Showcases

By Ellen Powers
Staff Writer

Muhlenberg's Studio Theatre was home to three plays as a part of *New Voices/New Visions* this past weekend. The three plays, *Am I Blue*, *Still Growing Up* and *The Repair Man*, were all student-directed, and the last two were written by Muhlenberg students Camille Seidel '18 and Sarah Jae Leiber '19, respectively.

Each of the three plays presented during the *New Voices/New Visions* festival presented moving and unique messages, emphasizing how important the stories that the plays told were to those who worked on them. Abigail Martz '19, director of *Am I Blue*, explained that she chose to direct that play because she believes that "female voices are not presented as often as they should be in theater, and I knew that I wanted to present a piece of theater that accentuated the lived experience of a woman." In the case of *Am I Blue*, this was done through the fascinating character of Ashbe. Similarly, Eliana Roseen '19, who played Jemma in *Still Growing Up,* expressed that the importance of the play was that "we brush women's rights under the rug, and it's something we feel uncomfortable talking about all the time," but *Still Growing Up* is "a great way to start a conversation." *The Repair Man* playwright, Leiber, explained that she wrote the play because she "wanted to write something that put Yom Kippur, hunger, honesty and depression in conversation with each other." She ended up basing the finalized play on a personal experience she had while studying abroad.

One particularly interesting aspect of the production was how the set was used to transition between the shows. A tall blue wall stood as the background to the first play of the evening, *Still Growing Up*, with the car set piece being the only other part of the set for that play. To transition between plays, the blue wall had been cleverly designed so that its main section could separate and allow the subsequent set to be moved forward by the stage crew. This design allowed the switching from one play to the next to be quick and seamless, and this method helped to keep the audience engaged for each play.

Jenna Adamek '19 did an amazing job directing *Still Growing Up*, making even a simple play in terms of set full in the way that she staged it. The relationship between Lauren and Jemma was portrayed realistically by Ashley Campbell '19 and Roseen respectively, making the audience sympathize with both characters. Much of the honesty in Campbell and Roseen's performances could be found in the honesty within the characters themselves. As Roseen explained, "When you look at Jemma, you immediately want to snap and judge her ... but it made me realize that as an actor ... I have to understand why she says those things, why she's lashing out and why she does it, and that brings more human qualities to her." In addition to masterfully creating such genuine characters, Seidel's script tackled the heavy topic of abortion in a thoughtful, clever way that never explicitly stated the issue but still made a powerful point on the subject.

The Repair Man, directed by Anna Ricciuti '19, blended comedy with the more serious elements of the play seamlessly. Ricciuti did a fantastic job directing the play, and Leiber, who directed the play when it was a Quickie and part of the Red Door Play Festival, explained, "[I'm] glad I didn′t direct the mainstage, firstly because Anna is so wonderful and talented, but also because it gave me a chance to step back creatively from the thing I′d written and let someone else go through the trouble of making it work onstage." Joseph Turner '21 gave a performance as the titular character that was hilarious and endearing, and Emily Casey '19 was moving as Nick, helping the audience to understand the reality of mental illness while still adding a layer of humor to the play. The banter between Turner and Casey was extremely entertaining, lightening the mood even when the play became more serious.

The third play of the evening, *Am I Blue* by Beth Henley, was excellently directed by Martz; her staging of the play helping to move the story forward effectively. Amanda Clark '22 was charming as the quirky Ashbe, and she created a compelling relationship with Owen Yingling '21's John Polk. Both characters were flawed but human, and Clark and Yingling did a fantastic job of capturing all of the complex layers of their roles. Lots of this was due to the work the two of them did with Martz in rehearsals, who explained that "throughout the beginning of our rehearsal process we focused a lot on building their onstage relationship through trust and focus exercises." This work clearly paid off, as much of the charm of the show was in the relationship that Clark and Yingling created. The play is full of absurdities that could have fallen flat, but Clark and Yingling made them all realistic within their characters.

All three plays presented in the *New Voices/New Visions* festival were phenomenally executed, creating thought-provoking and moving performances that audiences certainly enjoyed.

Photo Courtesy of Ken Ek

FROM **SMITH** PAGE 5

body a white man, then a black woman, then a black man in such a seamless but accurate fashion left me breathless.”

Photo Courtesy of Office of Communications

Zadie Smith engages with a student whilst signing books after her reading and discussion on Nov. 30.

Here is one of many aspects of Smith and her work that makes both so remarkable: she can slip into any persona through language, can approximate humanity with almost eerie accuracy. But perhaps Smith’s most extraordinary skill lies in her unconscious attempts to approximate *you*. Her words, though they might be describing unpleasantries like familial violence or the false promise of meritocracies, are somehow comforting. They strike at a chord right behind your heart, at the place where your ribs meet your spine. They pat the deepest concerns of your soul on the back, take away isolation like air out of lungs. She knows what you’ve never admitted to yourself, and suddenly she’s gone and said it in her deep, steady voice, and you’re not the only one. I first experienced this when reading *Swing Time*, a novel that had me sobbing for hours and thinking for days after I had finished it. Never before had someone else gotten so close to my very sense of being. It was disconcerting. It was also a relief.

In her essays, the focus of the collection *Feel Free*, Smith even approximates herself, getting close to her core in some moments and admitting that she can never be truly known to us, her sea of readers, the next, a style that alumnus Kate O’Donoghue ‘17 says is what makes Smith’s work so unique.

“… She really is, in the best way possible, *thinking on the page*. She uses writing as a way of understanding the shape of her own thoughts, as a way of arriving at an idea rather than proving her own knowledge of a subject. In a way, reading her work is like listening to somebody thinking aloud, and to get to overhear that is a gift and a wonder,” said O’Donoghue. “What was perhaps most interesting to me [about her talk] – maybe not most surprising, though – was how willing she was to work against the grain of the audience. I′m in awe of her passion and intellect, yes, but also of her eagerness to stand against popular ideas and notions regarding everything from social media and celebrity culture to matters of identity and appropriation. In that open (and warm, even) opposition, she invites a more generous reading of people and culture, and so an opportunity for us all to be more kind towards each other.”

Though Smith herself may feel strongly about these issues, insisting that instances of what is instantly dismissed as “cultural appropriation” be examined case by case, looking at some of them instead as instances of “love, fixation [or] fascination” that she does not find entirely reprehensible, she frames these opinions in an extraordinary way. “You are absolutely free to take the book and throw it across the room,” she says, “I’m perfectly willing to be ‘cancelled’ to write the kind of fiction I write.” In fact, Smith related this “cancelling” culture to capitalist tenets of use and subsequent abandonment – once someone does something worth “cancelling” them for, they are literally labeled finished, irredeemable.

Smith is wholly concerned with making writing happen – she *needs* to write, must get her ideas down and experiment with them, must attempt at recreating the experiences of bodies other than her own in order to create anything new. “My feeling of being no one is what allowed me to be all of these people,” she says of her characters. Smith is unwilling to collapse people and their multiple identities, including her own, into generalizations that are easy to understand and swallow, beyond the acknowledged need to assert concrete identities in order to gain rights in our current political system. We can write or create whatever we want, but audiences are equally permitted to react and reject as much as they want. Nothing is lost on either end.

Photo Courtesy of Office of Communications

Dr. Dawn Lonsinger (left), who led the public conversation with Zadie Smith, poses next to the guest author.

Even beyond these more controversial topics, Smith’s Q&A and reading are like hearing the words of her novels and essays, in all of their striking combinations of adjectives and nouns and arresting turns of phrase, improvised aloud. “The only true noun that expresses your being is your name,” she says of the nature of freedom. “Action is the ultimate freedom and the ultimate responsibility and the hardest thing in the world to do.” On how the nature of fame might affect this freedom: “There’s nowhere you can go that you’re not [you] … To be no one is one of the great liberties of life.” She’s funny. She’s genuine, even as she insists that she’s entirely “inauthentic.” These axioms come out of her without pretense; her thoughts simply end when they end, at the natural pauses of written sentences that we don’t normally experience in speech.

“…Listening to her answers felt like watching her words dance in the air because she spoke them into existence rather than writing them onto the page. She engaged with each and every student, her answers fueled with such fervor,” said Rajan. “My experiences with her words felt more like an indulgence than time spent with someone else′s thoughts … listening to her read from [her essay] ‘Meet Justin Bieber!’ in Empie Theater suddenly stripped her stories and essays of their goddess-like persona and infused them with a human identity.”

Even students who had not previously encountered Smith’s work, like Jessica Bensimhon ‘19, experienced a kind of awe at the reading.

“I′d heard of her, but I hadn′t read her, so I thought, ‘there′s no chance I′m going to be starstruck.’ So wrong. In an hour, I′d completely fallen in love with her mind. Everything she said was just so devastatingly intelligent, or funny, or heartbreaking, or insightful,” said Bensimhon. “[My sister and I have] exchanged pleasantries with Ada Limon, sat directly behind Ben Lerner, taken selfies with Danez Smith. Those have all been fun, unforgettable experiences. But I don′t think we′ve been as affected by any of them as Zadie. She talked a lot about the things we′re dealing with right now, and articulated them in the most incisive, earth-shattering ways … I remember just sitting there with my sister, in stunned silence, exchanging silent glances saying - *Are you hearing what I′m hearing? Are you feeling what I′m feeling?* … I′m finding new ways to connect with someone I′ve known almost my whole life because of Living Writers.”

Herein lies the magic of the Living Writers series: it brings people together, from those who have hardly spent life without each other to those who get to chat briefly as one signs their book for the other. It is an experience unlike anything I have ever had or will have again, and I am deeply and unfathomably grateful for it. In the words of O’Donoghue:

“To have opportunities to engage with the work and lives of writers who are active participants in literary communities and cultures around the world is an invaluable thing for young writers and thinkers. This is especially true in a place like Muhlenberg, which often feels insular and isolated from larger intellectual and artistic communities. I wouldn′t be the writer, thinker, student or poet I am today without this program, and I′m so thankful for the writers who visit, yes, but also for the faculty and staff who make the event happen. As the event comes to a close, too, we mustn′t forget that we have dozens upon dozens of Living Writers amongst us — in the faculty yes, but also in the staff and in the student body. Writing *is* a living thing, and I hope we as a community continue to cultivate a local culture that supports writers of all kinds, on campus and off.”

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY/OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

Editorial

CRISPR Crisis

New genetics research rocks scientific community

Just prior to last week's International Summit on Human Genome Editing, Dr. He Jian Kui made headlines as the first scientist to successfully genetically modify human babies, a pair of twins, Lulu and Nana, using CRISPR/Cas 9 technology.

Dr. He was already scheduled as a speaker at the Summit to present other research but also presented his preliminary findings to an audience of incredulous scientists who asked: "Will you publish the identity of Lulu and Nana in the future?" "Will it affect things if the individuals remain secret?" "How did you convince the parents when you started this experiment?" "Did you tell them about alternatives to avoid AIDS infection of their child?" And perhaps most importantly, "Why have you chosen to cross this red line?"

He not only hid his experiments from his now-former employer, but also from the scientific community at large. David Baltimore, Committee Chair and one of the world's leading experts on genetics, explained "I don′t think [the research] has been a transparent process. We only found out about it after it happened, so we feel left out … I think there has been a failure of self-regulation by the scientific community because of the lack of transparency."

He's goal in modifying the embryos was to make the children resistant to HIV, deemed medically unnecessary as the twins were already HIV-negative, but also potentially dangerous to the twins' health because of the unknown off-target effects. The doctor claims to have used CRISPR/Cas 9 to remove the CCR5 gene (which creates what is effectively HIV's "entrance" to the human body) from the twins' genome. He did this by recruiting couples who volunteered their germ cells: eggs from an HIV-negative female and sperm from an HIV-positive male partner. Following fertilization, he modified the DNA of the embryo using CRISPR before implanting it back into the mother, who he claims gave birth to the twins without incident.

CRISPR was discovered in 1987, but its potential as a powerful genetic editing tool in conjunction with Cas9 wasn't discovered until 2015. Shortly after this breakthrough was made, Baltimore was one of the many scientists who joined the first International Summit on Human Genome Editing to discuss the ethics and moral responsibilities that come with the power of this newly accessible technology.

At the conclusion of this year's summit, the U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine released a report declaring that human genome editing may be permitted "only for compelling medical reasons in the absence of reasonable alternatives, and with maximum transparency and strict oversight."

In other words, the line had been drawn, and He Jian Kui crossed it.

It is unreasonable to claim that this experiment was for the benefit of mankind; this experiment was conducted to test the limits of CRISPR/Cas 9's potential. As bioethicist Qiu Renzong put it: "there is a convenient and practical method to prevent HIV infection, to use genome editing is something like 'to shot bird with cannon.'" He's goal was not to prevent HIV transmission, but to demonstrate the power we possess over unconsenting humans. It took no genius to accomplish this feat, only recklessness.

This raises the question of informed consent. To what extent did the parents understand the power they were giving Dr. He? The scientist claims that the couple was "educated," but did they truly comprehend the potential consequences of the experiment? Despite ongoing research in model organisms, we don't yet fully understand the effects of CRISPR/Cas 9 editing in humans. By deleting the CCR5 gene, He not only put the twins at risk of off-target effects but increased their risk of succumbing to illnesses like influenza, which would be easily treated in a non-modified human.

No, germ cells cannot consent. But that does not give anyone the right to genetically engineer them however they please, lest we succumb again to the ideology of eugenics.

Filling the space

Helping low income students as a low income student

By Val Weisler
Staff Writer

On the second floor of William Allen High School, across an indoor bridge, the doors open to a computer lab. Each Thursday for the past three months, I have made this walk to the computer lab with other students from Muhlenberg College, DeSales University, and Cedar Crest College. We wait inside the lab as students peer in nervously or strut in and greet us casually. I try to find the balance between excited and casual but I never succeed, always saying "Hey!" with way too much enthusiasm. We are strangers for just a few minutes before we pair off and dive into topics strangers do not often speak of; the fear of navigating the college process as a low income student.

As the intern for the College Admissions Mentoring Program (CAMP), I work with other college students and Muhlenberg professor Michele Deegan to provide mentoring for William Allen high schoolers to navigate the college process. I did not know what to expect when I was accepted to serve as the intern. When it comes to college assistance, I have only known the absence of it; the space next to me in my senior year as I sat, wide-eyed, at my kitchen table long after dark, staring blankly at the estimated tuition of the average college. I did not think I would make it to college, but I was determined to give it a shot. I taught myself how to fill out the FAFSA form, wrote thank you notes to admissions counselors like it was my job, and tried to imagine, in my I'll-never-get-there mindset, if I wanted a small or big school, if lack of school spirit was a dealbreaker, and if the ranking of the dining hall mattered to me.

As I sat next to a William Allen senior two weeks ago and asked her these questions, my stomach tightened. "I haven't even thought about that," she responded. And of course she hadn't, when something seems like a far-off dream, asking yourself the questions that make it real are difficult, because deep down, there's a voice that reminds you just how unlikely it is. Another student sat next to me on the other side, and shared that he had already been accepted to a school. "But I can't go," he sighed. "It's $60,000 a year." When I asked him if he had finished his FAFSA application, he looked at me, confused, and asked what that was. When I explained, he pulled up the website on the computer. "Can we fill it out now?"

Low-income students, specifically those who are first-generation, are all too often branded as incompetent or unworthy because of lack of financial resources. The students I work with know what they want to do. One girl wants to pursue a degree in social work to advocate for foster kids. Another student is determined to be a representative on Capitol Hill. These students know what makes their hearts beat quicker. They know what interests them. The thing that is missing is the resources to pave the path to make those dreams come true. CAMP provides an environment for students to not be alone in the process. Sometimes, working with a student means spending the session multi-tasking between brainstorming topics for their college essay and talking to them about finding scholarships. Other times, it simply means serving as the listener as they express their worries and fears. I feel my own inner narrative change when I walk into William Allen. On Muhlenberg's campus, my low-income status comes with me to each class. It follows me to every dinner with my friends and all the late nights at GQ. It tags along for each odd job I do. But it usually stays silent; always active, rarely shared. When I enter the doors of William Allen, a switch is turned on. I go from a world where every student is assumed wealthy unless said otherwise to a space where my need for financial aid, my anxiety about making it to college whatsoever, and my stress about ever achieving financial mobility are echoed in the lives of the students who come to CAMP. I feel their fears in my bones. I've been there. Everyone is asking, "What will you do after high school?" And they will only accept one answer, an answer that is coated in privilege. In an area that acts as a hub for higher education, the majority of these students have never set foot on a college campus. An hour and forty-five minutes with college students isn't much. These students deserve a tremendous amount more. But we must do what we can to fill what would otherwise be an absence in the space next to them.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

GRAPHIC OPINIONS

Imagine Stan Lee writing for DC

By Melissa Reph
News Editor

DC Comics are always going to be my main love and focus but the death of the great Stan Lee a few weeks ago could not go unnoticed. Figurehead of Marvel Comics and the co-creator of some of the world's most famous heroes, Lee is an icon and legend in the world of comics. I can't possibly try and do him justice with a short biography. Since I'm a DC girl, I thought it might be nice to spotlight Lee's collaboration with the company in his early 2000s mini series *Just Imagine*... as a tribute to this industry great.

In *Just Imagine*... Lee teamed up with some of the comic book industry's top artists to pay homage to some of DC's most famous heroes. Each issue focused on a single character and their origin as a hero before bringing them all together in a spin on the Justice League. Unlike other, commonly referred to as, Elseworld comics, *Just Imagine*... doesn′t simply take the existing heroes of Bruce Wayne or Clark Kent and explore what it might be like if their stories were set in Victorian London or Soviet Russia; instead it creates completely new characters who become heroes similar to the ones we know, with the same names and some parallels. Many of the supporting casts and minor characters of the series are also re-imaginings of DC characters. Lee's takes on the DC characters are very reminiscent of his Marvel creations. Imbuing the series with the trademarks of classic Silver Age comics in their outlandish origin stories involving science experiments giving everyman-type characters extraordinary abilities to turn them into heroes. At the same time, Lee takes DC's characters who are often thought of as larger than life and gives them the flaws and humanity that he is known for in his heroes. He also hearkens back to his Marvel creations in his use of Norse mythology in Green Lantern, the character being given his abilities from the Norse Tree of Life Yggdrasil.

A more specific example of Lee's tell-tale characterizations and style is Lee's take on the Flash, which is reminiscent of his, arguably, most famous creation: Spider-Man. Rather than Barry Allen, Lee's Flash is a teenager named Mary Maxwell. She's nerdy and a comic book fan herself. She dreams of nothing more than being a superhero until she contracts a disease that is slowly killing her. Before she dies her scientist father injects her with hummingbird DNA, giving her super speed. Her character is relatable in the same way Peter Parker is, at the end of the day she′s still a teenager, and Lee expertly conveys that.

While nowhere near his most prolific work, Lee's *Just Imagine*... series is a fun highlight of his creativity. It is obvious that Lee enjoyed writing them, taking the most basic parts of famous DC characters and building his own around that. While plotting out your Marvel movie binge in Stan Lee's remembrance, I recommend during your breaks to check out *Just Imagine*... A minor blip in Lee's prolific career but a fun read for Marvel and DC fans alike.

THE BEAT WITH MATT BEAUNE

A hero emerges

By Matt Beaune
Investigative Reporter

Hello faithful readers! Our story left off with a glimmer of hope. Some sparknotes for those of you who might have missed it: our school is under attack. Everything is worse and we are no longer safe, or at least that's what I had originally thought until I saw a brave figure emerge from the darkness to save a group of freshmen from a pack of angry, hungry, highly trained wolves. As you can probably tell, I have been in awe of this fantastic hero from the moment I first saw their shadowy shape swoop in and save the day. But I have been irked since then with the same, undying question- just who is this person, and can they be trusted?

I spent Thanksgiving Break combing over the details and exhausting the resources and budget of The Weekly trying to get answers, but nothing was jumping out at me. But then it hit me- why should I do the work when others can do it for me? So I set up a tip line and invited other Muhlenberg students, faculty, and staff to share similar stories of random heroism and hope that I could find some kind of common thread to piece together a cohesive story. And while a vast majority of the responses had to do with leaves magically disappearing (which I concluded to be Plant Ops' doing), I heard many stories that support what I witnessed.

Pierce Lockett '19, a writing tutor, had this to say: "I was working on a paper in the library last week. I was in C-Level so I was expecting it to be quiet, but some jerk was playing music without headphones. It was already tough to concentrate, but this was just making it worse. Suddenly, as I was working up the courage to confront him myself, a strange, tall, lanky figure popped out from behind the stacks and started singing louder than the music. This, obviously, caught me off-guard, but as he slowly moved closer to the perpetrator and as his voice moved more and more off-key, the guy just shoved his laptop in his backpack and ran away. And just as the shadowy man appeared, he seemed to vanish into thin air and I was able to get back to my paper. It was pretty irritating, but at the end of the day it got the job done." Shadowy figure, appeared out of nowhere, saved an innocent civilian from unspeakable doom? This clearly seems similar to what I experienced, but it doesn't stop there.

Mary Fiala, a Resident Advisor in the BRS area, shared her story: "One night last week I was up studying for an english exam until about two in the morning, when I fell asleep on my open textbook, forgetting to set my alarm for the next morning. I awoke to the shrill, piercing sound of the fire alarm around 7:00 a.m., just the time I needed to get up to get to my exam on time. Apparently, some visitor burnt popcorn in the common room just before the fire alarm went off. I couldn't get a great look at him, but he seemed to be wearing a form fitting bodysuit and a mask of some kind. Would I call him a hero? Probably not. I'm pretty sure all of South was annoyed to be woken up by a fire alarm, but I got to my exam on time which was good I guess." This definitely fits the M.O. of our hero, and even though Mary wouldn't call him a hero, I definitely would (and you should too!).

So now you might be thinking what all of this means in the grand scheme of things. It's clear we have more than a mere do-gooder on our hands, we have a bona-fide superhero climbing the ranks here at Muhlenberg College, which is the most exciting thing to happen here since Jesse McCartney came in 2016. But what's most exciting is that as the journalist who discovered him, I have the authority to name him, and with all of the reports sharing a theme, I could think of no better name than ***"THE IRRITATOR."*** With a hero like ***"THE IRRITATOR"*** cleaning up campus and doing good deeds, I expect Muhlenberg to be back to its good old self in no time. So stay tuned, loyal reader, as I will be bringing you updates on all things ***"THE IRRITATOR"*** until he slowly and gracefully dies a hero, or lives long enough to see himself become the villain.

EDITOR'S NOTE: "The Muhlenberg Weekly does not and has never condoned or encouraged vigilante justice in any way, shape or form. What's next? Dogs with badges? That wouldn't make any sense."

-Will Wamser, Op-Ed Section Editor

Will Wamser is back and ... a G-G-G-G-GHOST?!!?

By Will Wamser
Op/Ed Section Editor

I am truly blessed to be back in my home. Well, it is both a blessing and a curse. The blessing being that I get to return to my favorite place and do my favorite thing, writing for the Muhlenberg Weekly and the Muhlenberg Weekly respectively. The curse being that I am literally cursed to haunt the halls of the Muhlenberg Weekly office for the rest of time, which is less than ideal. For those of you who may or may not remember, I straight up died.

Let me take it back now y'all. Two hops this time.

In late September of this year, I published an article on the dark underbelly of Zumba, spoiler alert there was no dark underbelly, just a dork upperjelly whose name was me. So, I quit, and retired with dignity. Then a writer by the name of Bill Bamser came to take my place, he had an arc, go find the articles if you care but I don't because he fricking killed me, and last time I checked I don't like my murderer. Well technically I killed him because he had an evil cult and my murder of him is what killed me, but that is not the point.

The point is that I died, but now I'm back and a ghost with a heart of cold, ain't nothing gonna keep me down. There are some good things and there are some not so good things, but I'm trying to stay positive. Dr. Oz keeps telling me that all we have is our positivity. Oh wow, look at me name dropping. Well, speaking of positives, that's probably the biggest positive. I've made a lot of friends that I never could before this, obviously because they are dead. And yes, my new best friend is Dr. Philip Oz, he's a good guy with even better ghost skin (that's what we call our skin in the biz).

It's actually a funny story, when I first died Tina Fey met me and said "What took you so long? John Legend has a lampshade on his head, Baby Gaga is in the back puking, Ghandi's already passed out and Ace Venture has a little present for you." We have been laughing about that ever since.

I will be beautiful forever, so that's good. Not living for the rest of eternity seems like a pretty good gig at first, infinite hot dogs, hanging out with my main man Slimmer (AKA Onionhead) whenever I want, taking stray socks from dryers (a little ghostie prank). But there are definitely some downsides, I can't deny that. For instance, every moment is pain and the knowledge that it will never end only makes it worse. Another thing is that when I close my eyes I see everyone I have ever loved laughing at my grave and that sure stings.

But regardless of the bad, I stay positive and just am happy to get back to work and back to writing. So, thank you all for coming to my funeral and I'll see you next semester!! If you have any fun ghost questions hit me up on MySpace, the ghost Facebook of course.

FROM **BASKETBALL** PAGE 12

PHOTO COURTESY OF MUHLENBERG ATHLETICS

Sara Dilly '19 takes the ball up the floor in the women's game against Washington.

Allentown with the second most three-pointers in a career, and was the NCAA Division III statistical champion in three-point percentage in 2016 shooting at a .486 clip.

Vallely rounded out the celebrated class, running the point in her four seasons. In her Muhlenberg tenure she too was a NCAA statistical champion in 2016 with 9.4 assists per game. She ranks first in assists in a career, as well as seventh in points in a career. She achieved all Mid-Atlantic regional honors twice and was named to the DIII All-American honorable mention team in 2016.

The women have begun the season undefeated, showing that they can potentially maintain the level of success they have had in the last four years. Sara Dilly '19, played for three years on the team with the class of 2018 and became a starter in her sophomore year. After the team's victory over Washington College on Thursday, Dilly expressed that she believes they are as good as any team in previous years, but play with a different style.

"This team is really athletic, so it enables us to run this really high-intensity press. We come back and we just try to trap nonstop, so we're really forcing a lot of turnovers," said Dilly.

That was proven in their 61-37 win over Washington College, as the Mules forced 24 turnovers and held their opponents to a mere 20 percent from the field. The full court press was suffocating on Thursday night, as Washington College struggled to get the ball past half court each time they inbounded the ball. The stellar defensive performance lowered their opponents scoring average to 39.7 per game which ranks third in all of Division III.

One of the common beliefs is while this year's team is not as offensively potent as in the past, the addition of seven freshman has cultivated the ability to run much more athletic scheme.

Carley Hamilton '19, who played two years with the class of 2018, led all scorers for the Mules with 16 points in just 18 minutes on Thursday.

"We have a really young team, kind of inexperienced when it comes to playing in college games, but really everyone is proving we can play at a high level and that we're a solid team," said Hamilton. Head Coach Ron Rohn echoed a similar tone when contrasting this team to the class of 2018 teams.

"There is no comparison. It is a totally different group, a totally different way they play," said Rohn. "This team might not be quite as smooth and as skilled and as used to playing together, but they're much more athletic. There is much more energy, there is much more depth off the bench."

One way Rohn maintains his high energy defensive scheme is by making platoon style line changes every few minutes of the game. In the team's contest against Washington, all swaps, except for an injury sub and free throw shooters having to stay on the court by rule, resulted in all five players on the court being switched for fresh legs on the bench.

Rohn is in his 18th season as head coach of the Women's Basketball team and is currently the winningest coach in school history with an outstanding 354-115 record. His teams have made the Centennial Conference playoffs in every year but one, and have advanced to the NCAA tournament nine times.

"What we have lost in offense, we have gained in defense and rebounding, so I think the team is just as good as we have been for awhile," Coach Rohn said.

If this year's team is feeling the pressure of living up to the success of the class of 2018 they certainly are not showing it. They are 6-0 thus far and are crushing their opponents, winning by an average of 29 points. Defensive prowess has defined this squad early in the season and it could take them a long way. Their full court press has resulted in a +11.2 turnover margin. "When people watch this team, it looks different, but it is still effective," said Rohn.

FROM **FOOTBALL** PAGE 12

spend more time with them and to appreciate the time away from the office. Our staff works crazy hours, 7 days a week from August until December. Duke appreciated the finer things and always made the most of his time away from the office, as it is so precious. That is something I'll never forget and take with me forever."

Following Donnelly's passing in October of 2017, Muhlenberg was looking for a new head coach to lead its football program. The search turned out to take them no farther past their own campus limits, as Milne was hired after serving the previously three years as offensive coordinator for the Mules.

Despite a taste of success last year – winning an ECAC bowl game over Carnegie Mellon – Milne, his coaching staff, and his players knew they were capable of far greater things this year. Milne began the season in August entering his first full season as head coach, so the opportunity to lead the program from all facets was something he had not necessarily experienced in his previous roles with the Muhlenberg coaching staff.

"I really didn't have a grand plan on what my expectations would be," said Milne, a Hobart College alum. "With our program there are 104 young men and nine coaches that need to work well together each day. We really focus on each practice one at a time since there are so many moving parts."

While Milne had many personalities to manage and a new game plan to develop each week, he proved himself capable of stepping up to the challenge as each game came and went. The Mules 2018 regular season ended with their mere loss coming in Baltimore to Johns Hopkins. Both teams ended up shared the title of 2018 Centennial Conference Champions.

> **"With our program there are 104 young men and nine coaches that need to work well together each day."**

There were hurdles to get over and some tough strategic football decisions to make as each game saw fit, but Milne worked through them to lead his team to its deepest playoff run in program history.

A hard fought 38-10 loss in Alliance, Ohio to defending national champion, Mount Union does not put a damper on the immense success the team had this season. Muhlenberg's first two playoff wins this year in the round of 32 and "sweet 16" against Delaware Valley and Randolph-Macon, respectively, showed just how well Milne performed as a coach this year.

"Many of our in-game decisions make themselves. We spend hours watching film and researching the data for each game and each opponent," said Milne.

The Mules win against Delaware Valley proved the preparation of Milne and his staff. In a tied game late in the fourth quarter the Mules chose to run on a third and long instead of attempt to gain the first down. They punted to Delaware Valley and Nick Siricco '21 took an interception to the endzone for what ended up being the game winning score.

"The numbers really made the decision for us. Our percentage to pick up a 3rd and very long is very low, with the extra yards gained running the football we were able to punt the ball deep and allow our defense to have a statistical advantage."

Relying on the defense was the right call. "When our opponents have to drive more than 80 yards, our defense is successful in stopping them over 90 percent of the time. We knew the numbers and the decision is easy to make."

Despite one of the best coaching seasons by an individual in Division III football this season, Milne is always sure to give credit to his assistant coaches, for he could not have gotten through this spectacular season without them. From leading certain team meetings, to coordinating plays for the offense, defense, and special teams, the Muhlenberg coaching staff goes far beyond the leadership of Nate Milne.

"As a coaching staff we always spend time and sharing ideas with each other," Milne said. "This season I spoke to the defense more on game day than I have in years past but during the week Coach (Kory) David and our defensive staff handle all of the game planning. Coach David is the best defensive coordinator in Division III and the best thing I did as head coach was stay out of his way and let him do his job that he does so well."

It might be easy to be discouraged when one's season ends with a loss. It might even be especially tough to digest this loss knowing that one of the most special seasons in program history has been capped. But Milne is not the type of coach that is going to dwell on the few negatives of the season.

> **"The team has an ability to compete against one another at a very high level every single day in order to make one another better."**

"Our team has wonderful practice habits. The team has an ability to compete against one another at a very high level every single day in order to make one another better," said Coach Milne following the last game of the season. "Although our roster looked similar we had a significantly deeper team in many critical positions than we have in many of the previous years."

Leadership was also key, "Our leaders were great this season as well. We had so few upperclassmen that all of them were pushed into leadership roles and did a wonderful job of showing this team the right direction. The great practice habits and leadership allowed us to get better each week and we peaked at the right time."

As the offseason arrives, the Muhlenberg football coaching staff has a great amount of work to do in preparation for 2019. While there will be no official games being played that will count in the win-loss column, the team does have a "special trip to Italy planned for the spring of 2019," said Milne. Muhlenberg will "play an offseason game for the first time in Muhlenberg history and develop a chemistry prior to the fall of 2019," Milne added.

The coaching staff plans to continue evaluating its players and game schemes to continue improving. Some coaches might simply be satisfied with this result, but Coach Milne and his staff knows that there is always room to get better, to have more fun, and to make Muhlenberg Football better than it was in its previous year.

Coming off an incredible season with so much promise for next year, Milne will continue to lead with energy, positivity, and the type of leadership that is reminiscent of Coach Donnelly.

Recruiting Muhlenberg's future stars

By Alex Blum
Contributing Writer

Following their 11-14 campaign in 2017-18, in which five pivotal seniors departed, the Men's Basketball Team entered the 2018-19 season sporting seven new freshmen. Seven extremely talented players that have contributed in many areas of the game and have tons of upside. The addition and the early success of these freshmen is in part due to Coach Kevin Hopkins, who was named head coach in April of 2017, and his ability to recruit as well as pitch the Muhlenberg basketball program to prospective student-athletes and the incredible opportunities that can be had. The skilled players of this year's freshmen class have really connected with Coach Hopkins as he made them feel as though Muhlenberg is the perfect place for them to showcase their wide range of abilities and build something special.

Coach Hopkins' process of finding and recruiting exceptional young talent is a thorough operation where he pitches the system, explains to the prospective student-athletes the unforgettable moments that can be made, and builds valuable connections. "Recruiting is a complicated process that is built around relationships. We find potential student-athletes a number of different ways including calling high schools or AAU coaches that we know, getting emails from kids or recruiting services, and going out to watch kids participate in AAU tournaments or prospect camps," Coach Hopkins explained. Coach Hopkins also made it clear the type of players that he and his staff scout are not just any players. "We try to find student-athletes that are self-motivated, competitive kids who are driven to succeed both on and off the court. On the court, we really value kids that have good size, athleticism, and the ability to shoot the ball. Off of the court, we try to identify those kids who will be academically successful at Muhlenberg and contribute to the campus community," Coach Hopkins described. The coaching staff certainly understands the brand of player and student they are in search of and they feel many prospects are easily attracted to the program. "There are definitely a lot of players that are attracted to what we have to offer here at Muhlenberg. The combination of a great liberal arts education with the opportunity to compete in the Centennial Conference is very appealing to people," Coach Hopkins added. The aspect of Coach Hopkins' pitch that he feels attracts and persuades many athletes is his authenticity and clarity. "I think many student athletes are attracted to the honesty and transparency that we bring to the recruiting process. We tell recruits that the recruiting process is about them, not about us," Coach Hopkins said.

The philosophy and process of recruiting here at Muhlenberg has really been an impactful and successful experience for this year's budding freshmen. Standout guard, Dan Gaines, has nothing but praise for Coach Hopkins and for him, his time at Muhlenberg has been really similar to that of his recruiting experience. "Coach Hopkins did a really great job painting a picture of what the school is really about. Both him and Coach Brown, the assistant coach last year, clarified any questions I had about not only basketball, but also the academics and social life. Coming into this year, I felt prepared and aware of what was to come after my recruiting experience," Gaines explained. Gaines continued to praise Coach Hopkins and described why he felt Coach Hopkins was so effective in communicating what the program was all about. "Coach Hopkins does a great job relaying what the program is about to recruits because he is one hundred percent honest. Unlike many other coaches, Coach Hopkins describes what he expects from the team in the future in a reasonable manner. Whereas some coaches tell recruits that they have an amazing team even if they don't, Coach Hopkins relays his message using realistic expectations." Ultimately, after his entire recruiting journey, Gaines was made to feel that Muhlenberg was absolutely the perfect fit for him to grow not only as a student-athlete, but as an individual. "The honesty and how genuine Coach Hopkins was during his pitch was the deciding factor in me coming to Muhlenberg. After listening to what he had to say about the basketball program and school in general, I knew that this was a place where I could approach almost anyone if I ever had a question or problem. Coach Hopkins told me that he was not only recruiting me as a basketball player, but as an individual as a whole."

Freshman guard, Joe D'Amico, also expressed his feelings towards Coach Hopkins and shed light on his personal recruiting experience. "Coach Hopkins does a great job of setting out his goals for us as he is committed to making Muhlenberg an elite program in every way" D'Amico indicated. D'Amico continued to express that upon arriving at the Mule, nothing came as a surprise, it was just as it had been explained to. "It has been what I expected. It's been that very intense and demanding schedule that has helped our team build the proper habits for success that I anticipated."

Coach Hopkins and his coaching staff have truly built something special with their philosophy toward recruiting and have certainly brought in highly talented basketball players. The freshmen, who have only just begun their collegiate careers, have really connected and followed Coach Hopkins as they strongly believe in him. Through their recruiting experience and everything Coach Hopkins relayed to them, Muhlenberg was made to feel like a place that they could call "home" for the next four years.

FROM **TUBMAN** PAGE 12

had an opportunity to potentially play all four years. That was more attractive to me at the time than going somewhere and maybe playing by junior year," said Tubman.

Shirley introduced Tubman to the administration side of college athletics. "He was just one of the most organized individuals that I have ever met. He did a great job at managing and delegating," she said. "He was very intelligent and was a very good coach. Being a head coach and an athletic director isn't very easy, and I always tell him - because he is still doing both." After his time at Allentown College Shirley continued his career as the head women's basketball coach and vice president of athletics at Thomas Jefferson University. The 2018-19 season marks his 30th with the institution.

"I got the big picture and saw what he was doing for me as a student athlete beyond what I was learning on the court," said Tubman. " I thought, 'Wow, this is a pretty impactful role they have'."

Tubman's solid work ethic and mind for basketball was what helped her earn All-American honors three times as a player. "I was a shooter. I wasn't necessarily fast or overly athletic but I was fortunate to have a coach that had a system that worked around my strengths. I worked hard and I enjoyed the competition," Tubman explained. The current DeSales women's basketball record book is still littered with the name "Lynn Butler". Atop of almost every scoring category, she still holds the record for most points scored in a career with 2,193, set upon her graduation in 1987. She is the only player in school history to ever clear the 2,000 point mark.

After acquiring a masters from Lehigh Tubman worked for five different institutions in a plethora of administrative and coaching roles. Most recently, she served as the director of athletics for nine years at Chestnut Hill University.

Tubman's she wasn't aggressively searching the job market while at Chestnut Hill. "I saw the Muhlenberg opening and I knew a lot about the Lehigh Valley from being an undergrad and graduate student here. I knew about Muhlenberg's academic excellence, the Centennial Conference and Division III."

Tubman's well rounded resume has helped her understand how a director of athletics achieves success.

"An athletic director has to be multi-faceted."

"There is so much that college athletics encompasses. Its hiring and managing coaches, managing facilities and generating revenue. It's getting to know the people you are working with and what their strengths are. That's a key. Learn everybody's strengths and capitalize on them," said Tubman.

"Athletic directors are responsible for building a community that strives to achieve individual, team and department success. Listening and communication are important traits in team building. A successful athletic director must possess the leadership skills to develop shared visions for a department to grow."

She expanded on good listening skills: "In this role, taking the time to observe what the current culture is and getting to know the individuals in the department and throughout the campus community is important," said Tubman.

She also recognized some specific wants of the Muhlenberg coaches, who she credits for welcoming her with open arms. "Having transparency and shared governance is important to be a good athletic director," she said. "Shared governance where the coaches want to have more of a role, not just in their program and their program's success, but also understanding how we operate as a department."

And of course, Tubman recognized aspects of Muhlenberg's reputation as the caring college during her interview process. "A sense of community among the coaches is strong. They all have needs and desires but they would be willing to understand what the priorities are."

As for those priorities, "I am trying to figure out the best infrastructure. I think we need a more concrete procedure and policy manual to help us with internal operations," explained Tubman.

This does not mean losing sight of external operations. "Externally we do some great things like the Scotty Wood Tournament, the golf outing and the Buttermaker Tournament. How do we capitalize on those and make them stronger? We have great alumni engagement and support, but how do we engage alumni who have not been involved? Those are some things we will be focusing on."

"It takes a full year to get a full understanding of an institution and sometimes you have to be patient, however I want to make effective change immediately," said Tubman. She admitted this is one of the only challenges she has faced since coming to Muhlenberg. "Being impatient is a pressure I put on myself, just like I did when I was a student athlete." She said reminding herself some initiatives shouldn't be rushed is an important part of the job too. "I know assessing the current infrastructure is crucial, and that takes time. Effective growth and improvement requires assessment. I want our programs and student athletes to be successful. I want to provide them with a positive experience."

And though it seems that she attends any and every sporting event she can, even traveling six hours each way to Alliance, Ohio this past weekend to watch the football program in their first ever elite eight appearance, she will not become satisfied until she has met all of Muhlenberg's student athletes. "My interactions with the student athletes have been positive. I wish I had developed that area of my job a little more, but it's something I continue to focus on," Tubman said. "I think there are enthusiastic students who have some great ideas on how to improve the student athlete experience. They want to do more than just compete in their sport."

For Lynn Tubman, this is the second time she has found herself a home at an Allentown college. "I knew, being a former Division III athlete, it is the purest form of college athletics. Student athletes are playing for the love of the sport," she began. "My experience as a Division III athlete made me want to come back to a Division III institution and give back; hopefully to give student athletes the same experience that I had."

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

On the defensive:

Life without the Class of 2018

By Jason Grant
Contributing Writer

The Muhlenberg women's basketball team has been forced to adjust to life without one of the greatest classes in program history.

The 2014-2015 season commenced an unprecedented four year run in which the women won three straight Centennial Conference titles, a feat that had never been accomplished by any team in the Centennial's history. In 2016-17, after securing their historic third title in a row, they finished the year ranked 14th in all of Division III.

The class of 2018 included four dominant basketball players who have accumulated piles of individual and team records, accolades and most importantly wins.

They won at least 20 games in each of their four years, amassing an incredible 88-23 record wins in total. This team is regarded as not just the greatest basketball team in Muhlenberg College's history, but one of the best athletic programs in the college's history.

Three guards Christina Manning '18, Rachel Plotke '18, Brandi Vallely '18, and Christina Gary '18 made up the feared foursomes who rarely got beaten by foes in the Centennial Conference.

Manning was known on the court as an underrated cornerstone who took advantage of teams that didn't prepare a game plan to defend her. In her senior campaign she made the Centennial Conference's second team.

Gary was a force in the paint. Her six-foot-one-inch frame made driving to the basket a nightmare for opponents. She holds the Muhlenberg record for blocked shots in a game, and is third all-time in career rejections. Gary also appears on the all-time list for points scored in a career.

Two-time first team All-Conference player Plotke was the team's knockdown shooter. She ended her career in

see **Basketball** page 10

Tubman's trip to the top

By Matt Riebesell
Managing Editor

I remember the first time I met Lynn Tubman. I was with some fellow student athletes during orientation weekend and we approached Associate Athletic Director, Megan Patruno and Assistant Athletic Director, Lily Otu - who we were quite familiar with - in Seegers Union.

Patruno introduced me and the group to the newest member of the Muhlenberg athletics family. Our new leader.

Tubman reached her hand out and gave, to this day, one of the best and most professional handshakes I have ever received. After each of us introduced ourselves she would repeat our names back to us.

"Hi, I'm Matt." We shook hands. "Matt," said Tubman.

"I am Justin, nice to meet you." She shook his hand. "Justin," she quietly repeated back.

The group of us continued our trek to the dining hall. We looked at each other clearly impressed with Tubman's presence during the encounter.

"She's going to fit in well here."

Tubman's first semester as Muhlenberg's director of athletics and recreation is coming to a close. Her position is one she knew she would eventually end up in despite entering Allentown College (now DeSales University) as a nursing major - mainly because of her mentors.

She credits both her high school and college basketball coaches for sparking her interest.

"In high school my coach, Maryann McNichol was a role model and mentor. She was a Villanova grad and was always so passionate about coaching," said Tubman. "I thought 'she really loves what she's doing'."

Not the response one may expect from an athlete who was cut from her high school's basketball program during her freshman year. Tubman then went on to make the junior varsity team her sophomore year but didn't log a single minute on the court. To improve play Tubman conditioned and practiced with the boys team at her high school, and still shows gratitude towards their coach, Phil Martelli, who allowed Tubman the rare experience. The hard work payed off; Tubman was a varsity level starter during her junior and senior seasons and had earned opportunities to continue her career at both the Division I and Division III levels.

Continuing her career at Allentown College led her into another mentor: Tom Shirley. "Tom Shirley had been recruiting me more aggressively than anyone and I felt like I would

see **Tubman** page 11

Milne's Mules makes milestones

By Alex Horowitz
Senior Staff Writer

It's not every season that an athletic program earns gets national recognition, achieves their first ever trip to Elite Eight, produce 15 all Centennial Conference honorees, and break a school record for wins in a season.

Especially under a new head coach.

But accomplishments don't always fully illustrate the impact leaders can have on a program. For years the Muhlenberg football team had been fortunate to follow the path of a leader who was inspiring, intelligent, and motivating: Mike Donnelly.

"Duke had so much passion for making other people be there best. He was able to shape how I organize our daily, weekly and yearly schedule,"said Mules head football Coach Nate Milne. "He really provided a blueprint for success, which allows me to be myself in our meetings and on the football field,",

Milne continued to describe Donnelly as a man who shaped him into the man and coach he is today. Coming from two different generations never phased either of these men, who learned from each other and formed a lasting bond during their time together in Allentown.

"As a person I think I learned more from Duke than he probably thought he taught me," said Milne. "We were at different ends of our personal lives, his children were adults and mine are so young, I would listen to him tell stories about bringing them to the office in order to

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Coming up this week in
SPORTS

Women's Basketball

Muhlenberg
vs
Swarthmore

Saturday, Dec. 8 @ 2 pm
Memorial Hall

Men's Basketball

Muhlenberg
vs
Swarthmore

Saturday, Dec. 8 @ 4 pm
Memorial Hall

Men's Cross Country

Fast Times Before Finals Meet

Saturday, Dec. 8
Bethlehem, PA

Men's Cross Country

NCAA Mid East Regional

Saturday, Dec. 8
Bethlehem, PA

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Read inside:

Presenting the beloved songs of Harold Arlen

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NEWS

A discussion with Dr. Stefanie Sinno, a developmental psychology professor, regarding the effects of campus hookup culture and Post Coital Dysphoria or the "hookup hangover."

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ARTS & CULTURE

Thomas Miller balances the two art forms of theater and art, questioning the mission and intention behind creating art itself. "If it doesn't spark why," Miller says, "why are you doing it?"

read more on 7

OP/ED

Check out the first comic from illustrator Jessica Bensimhon '20!

read more on 9

SPORTS

The success of upperclassmen pitchers RJ Hennessy '19 and Matt D'Ambrosia '20 has inspired and brought life to the young pitcher core and entire Muhlenberg baseball team.

read more on 10

'Berg commemorates MLK Jr. Day with community organizing training

Photo Courtesy of Office of Communications

By Chloe Gravereaux
Editor-in-Chief

Fifty student workers and leaders of activist clubs gathered on Martin Luther King Jr. day for five hours of community organizing training in Seegers.

This was the first time in five years the academic calendar brought students back before MLK Day, which several sponsors on campus used to pay tribute to Martin Luther King Jr.'s ability to organize and change, stated Robin Riley Casey, director of Multicultural Life, one of the sponsors of the event.

"BErg CHANGE, Muhlenberg's community organizing workshop, was our [Community Engagement and Multicultural Life] attempt at reclaiming a part of the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King (MLK) that many people don't acknowledge," said Riley-Casey. "MLK was a radical activist and a community organizer. He brought people together and built a movement of resistance against racial injustice, unfettered capitalism and the rise of the military machine."

The training, called BErg CHANGE, was lead by Heather Cronk, who has worked in community organizing for 15 years, almost as long as she has known Beth Halpern, the director of community engagement.

Cronk broke the training into three main sections: public narrative, power mapping and building actions and campaigns, with worksheets handed out explaining each in detail.

Students began the workshop by introducing themselves, the issues they stand for and the challenges of organizing on Muhlenberg's campus. Club representatives ranged from Residential Services to the Men of Color Network, from Garden Club to Students for Queer Advocacy. Each campaign was written by Cronk on large posters in blue, green and purple markers. Other hand-drawn posters recreated charts and graphs distributed to students on handouts. After students worked in smaller groups, they shared their findings on the posters on the wall.

The section on public narrative featured a discussion of the story of self, the story of now and the story of us, which all intersect to form a public narrative. Cronk focused on ways to convey a campaign and goal that connected to the greater audience.

Morgan Kelly '19, who attended Environmental Action, Community Engagement and for her job as a sustainability intern, explained the story of us as: "The emphasis put on yourself and the story you can tell and how that can relate to others and bring them to your campaign and see the change you can make."

The next session focused on power mapping, which Cronk defined as, "getting a sense for who has the power to make a decision that we want to be made, and how we try to change that person's mind so that they make that decision."

Together on a set of axes of influence and allyship, the group plotted important individuals in Muhlenberg Trans Advocacy Coalition's campaign to gain more gender-neutral bathrooms on campus. Cronk used the campaign as an example because it had a clear goal and a concrete plan. The students of MTAC have secured 17 gender-neutral bathrooms on campus in the last five years.

The final section was on building actions and campaigns, where students discussed in small groups different actions they could take to further their cause and filled out a chart that compared the energy it took to create the predicted outcome, and then discussed effectiveness of different strategies.

Sarah Krsnak '21, who attended for Garden Club, wants to use these tactics to start an on-campus thrift store.

"I know a lot of students here have clothing they're not wearing or they want new clothing. I'm looking for ways to get started," said Krsnak. "There's little presence of student-run businesses on campus and that's kind of upsetting. I want students to be able to make money out of this thrift store. So I'd like to buy the things back from students for a reduced price so they make a profit and then sell those things in the store."

At the end, students gave feedback as a group and went over what was most helpful in the workshop.

"Hopefully this can teach us how to get more student engagement and more students involved in general and reach more students and a broader spectrum of people," said Kelly.

Liv Fargiano '22, who attended as part of Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity, walked away with more than organizing strategies.

"I learned a lot about Muhlenberg as a whole because I'm just a freshman. I obviously know all the good things about Berg and how people are so open all the time," said Fargiano "Other people have said issues I didn't know were present on campus before hearing about them from people today."

BErg CHANGE was sponsored by the Office of Community Engagement, the Office of Multicultural Life, Division of Student Affairs, Provost's Office, Black Students Association and the Men of Color Network.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

Thursday, January 17
Fire alarm - 6:28 p.m.
Report of fire alarm at Gordon Street caused by cooking. System was silenced and reset.

Friday, January 18
Harassment - 12:12 a.m.
Report of harassment in East Hall. Investigation to continue.

Animal complaint - 7:51 a.m.
Report of a bat found in a house on Liberty Street. Bat was captured and release outside.

Injured student - 10:57 a.m.
Report of injured student at Prosser Hall. Muhlenberg EMS responded, student was transported to Health Services.

Saturday, January 19
Sick student - 10:18 p.m.
Report of sick student at Walz Hall. Student refused treatment or transport.

Sunday, January 20
No reports.

Monday, January 21
Drug violation - 12:39 a.m.
Report of possession of marijuana and paraphernalia in Prosser Hall. Items brought to Campus Safety and placed in evidence locker and referred to Dean of Students office.

Alcohol violation - 12:41 a.m.
Report of alcohol violation in Walz Hall. Individuals identified and spoken to. Investigation to continue.

Disorderly conduct - 8:00 a.m.
Report of inappropriate images in snow on Front Drive. Plant Ops was notified to remove.

Tuesday, January 22
Fire alarm - 12:36 a.m.
Report of fire alarm at the Courts caused by hair dryer. System was silenced and reset.

Sick student - 10:30 p.m.
Report of sick student in Seegers Union. Muhlenberg EMS responded, no further incident.
and reset.

Wednesday, January 23
Injured student - 11:50 p.m.
Report of injured student in Prosser Annex. Muhlenberg EMS responded and student was transported to hospital.

Thursday, January 24
Disabled vehicle - 7:41 p.m.
Report to jump start vehicle in back drive, campus safety officer successfully started vehicle.

Friday, January 25
Found property - 1:32 p.m.
Report of found credit card in Walz Hall. Message left for owner, item placed in lost and found locker.

Animal complaint - 5:44 p.m.
Report of a bat in South Hall. The bat was removed and placed outside by Campus Safety officer.

Fire alarm - 10:04 p.m.
Report of fire alarm on Albright Street caused by steam from shower. System was silenced and reset.

Saturday, January 26
Alcohol violation - 12:00 a.m.
Report of alcohol violation in Walz Hall. Individuals identified and spoken to.

Fire alarm - 1:32 a.m.
Report of fire alarm in Benfer Hall caused by cooking. System was silenced and reset.

Alcohol violation - 12:07 p.m.
Report of alcohol violation in Brown Hall. Individuals spoken to, Residential Services notified.

SUPER SUNDAY
PIZZA & WINGS
PLACE YOUR ORDER AT THE WOOD DINING COMMONS
PICK UP BEFORE KICK OFF ON SUPER SUNDAY (FEB. 3)

‘Berg gets the gold!

The college receives recognition for commitment to sustainability

By Cynthia Silva
Staff Writer

Earlier this year, Muhlenberg College was awarded the STARS Gold rating for its commitment to sustainability on campus–a combined effort made by both the college faculty and its students.

The award is given through the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), which recognizes the accomplishments of colleges and universities through its Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) awards.

Through its self-reporting framework, STARS encourages an integration of sustainability in higher education institutions. With over 930 participating institutions across the world, it has become the most widely recognized international standard for higher education sustainability.

One key player on campus that has contributed to the award has been the Muhlenberg Environmental Action Team (EnAcT), a student-run organization that educates the campus on sustainability and environmental issues. Through projects and programs, the club has helped students better understand their ecological impact.

Sasson Lonner / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Recycling efforts are just one of the ways that ‘Berg has been working towards a more sustainable campus.

“EnAcT does so much on campus to promote sustainability, such as educating the campus on important issues, holding documentary screenings and putting on Earth Day celebrations to name just a few,” says Natalie Warhit ‘19, former president of the club.

While a sustainability intern for the college’s dining hall, Warhit helped to create a strong connection between Dining Services and EnAcT.

“This connection has allowed for great collaboration that has lead to incredible projects including efforts to reduce food waste, form connections with local farms and promote the reduction of the consumption of meat and other animal products,” explains Warhit.

Students can see this collaboration every day at the dining hall. Joining forces, EnAcT and Dining Services created the “Think Before You Sip” program to switch plastic straws to sustainably produced paper straws.

“Currently, the use of paper straws in the U.S. is generally not an accepted practice,” wrote Peter Stark, Operational Manager for Muhlenberg College Dining Services, in a submission to the AASHE for award credit. “Since the inception of the program, we have seen a reduction campus-wide in the number of straws that are being used by our customers.”

Though plastic straws may seem harmless, the United States uses them at an alarming 500 million every day, according to the National Park Service. And due to their small size, straws are less likely to be recycled, landing them into the ocean, ultimately harming marine life.

In response to these dangers, cities like Seattle have banned straws all together. Therefore, campus programs like these have become part of the national effort to decrease waste.

While EnAcT continues to promote sustainability on campus, Warhit believes students can also make an impact. “Students can recycle, take shorter showers, turn lights and heat off when you′re not in the room and reduce (or better yet eliminate) their consumption of meat and other animal products,” says Warhit.

Looking toward the future, EnAcT continues to be excited about creating a more environmentally conscious campus through events like Earth Day, an annual festival open to the public where vendors and clubs get to promote the holiday.

“We are also planning to start composting around campus and work with the Garden Club,” says Isabel Kaufman ‘21, the current president of EnAcT. She says the club wants to continue the collaboration with Dining Services to expand Meatless Mondays and the Spring Farmer′s Market. “We can’t wait!”

Updates to timeline for off-campus housing ensures transparency

By Sydney Coplin
News Editor

The Office of Housing and Residence Life (HRL) has implemented an updated set of procedures to ensure that information and knowledge surrounding off-campus living is made as transparent as possible. While there have not been any official changes to the actual policy for applying to live off-campus, there has been a shift in the timeline, with information regarding off-campus living going out to students earlier, at the beginning of October.

Students are strongly advised to not sign any lease for off-campus housing until they are approved by HRL. There is no guarantee that all students will be approved.

“Before this year, we would advertise all housing before classes begin in January,” explains Kate Shelley, Associate Director of Housing Operations. “This year, information went out in October, so the only change is how early we start marketing it aggressively.”

Since the first introductory email sent out to rising juniors and seniors on Oct. 3, there have been four mandatory training sessions offered to students interested in living off-campus. The training sessions provide students with tips as well as important questions that they should be asking themselves and their landlords, often suggested by past students, according to Courtney Stephens, Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Housing & Residence Life.

“We want to set students up for success once they are off campus.”

“We want to set students up for success once they are off campus,” says Stephens. “But we are also always here for them, whether they are in ML or living on Tilghman.”

While the information provided to students at the training sessions is available online on the HRL website, attendees are also given hard copies, and a general opportunity to ask questions face to face with HRL staff. Students unable to attend the in-person training sessions due to being abroad for both Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 semesters are able to participate in a virtual training session.

“We do have a controlled number of students allowed to live off-campus because we have an agreement with the city of Allentown,” explains Stephens. “We are also a residential college, which means students are required to live on-campus. Moving off-campus is deemed as an exception and a privilege.”

“We already know, given number of applications, we will not be approving everybody,” adds Shelley.

Shelley explains that there is a range of the number of students approved to live-off campus, which varies each year. For example, in the 2016-2017 school year there were more students that declined their offer after being approved, so late applications were able to be accepted. This may have given a false sense of how many students actually are allowed to move off campus, according to Shelley.

“There is a waitlist, which is totally dependant upon the students who got it,” says Stephens. “If we do have people turn their offer down, then we certainly would bring people off of it. It’s in order of date and time of submission, with seniority. Any on time, eligible senior applications will be reviewed before any of the junior applications.”

“We are trying to put a system in place, and we are doing everything we can to stay consistent.”

“We are trying to put a system in place, and we are doing everything we can to stay consistent” adds Stephens.

There were no students taken off the waitlist last year, notes Shelley.

Students are also encouraged to apply to live in a MILE house or other living options in the housing lottery in order to have an on-campus backup if they do not get placed in an off-campus housing.

For students who are approved to live off-campus, there is a mandatory meeting in August before classes start. That meeting is offered as a reminder that despite living off-campus, students still have access to campus resources, such as the gym, counseling, the dining hall and more, says Stephens.

It is also very important that students submit their applications on time, since as Shelley puts it, “it is much easier to withdraw an on-time application.”

Besides for the mandatory training sessions and on-time submission, other requirements for off-campus living include: 2.0 GPA, in good conduct standing and junior or senior status.

Applications for off-campus are due by Feb. 1. Once reviewed initially, there will be a conditional approval by Feb. 19, and a final approval by March 15.

BergBeat
magazine

Berg Beat Magazine is a special publication of The Muhlenberg Weekly. The articles are student generated, but edited by a faculty editor as part of a semester-long reporting project.

The hookup hangover

By Nicole Reindel
Contributing Writer

Turning the silver doorknob, waiting to hear the click of the lock as she shut the door behind her, she exhaled. The metal clink promised the events that had taken place the night before stayed securely behind the wooden door–but the heat in her chest was still there. Pacing down the poorly lit hallway, feet dragging against the dark carpeting whose designs were almost unrecognizable from years of piled on crud that buried itself within the strands, she grew more upset with every step towards the exit of the building.

So how can we possibly merge together our own identity, our peer's expectations of us and our family values harmoniously? The truth is, it's not always a harmonious blend, but it also doesn't have to be.

"I don't know if I wanted that situation to go down the way it did," she thought to herself while the early morning April breeze blew gently. She walked towards the opposite end of the campus where her dorm room offered a comfortable safe haven. She found herself, however, sitting with a close friend just beyond Victors' Lament, hidden away on wooden benches that were concealed by the blossoming pink buds. The night before wasn't a mistake but it wasn't something that sat comfortably with her once she was removed from the situation. Enjoyable at the time, but heavy on her conscience the next day, she vented to her friend about waking up in someone else's XL twin bed and how the guilt began to manifest. Once she released some tension that was gnawing at her, she walked the familiar asphalt path home but she couldn't relieve herself entirely of that emotional weight.

"Those who aren't sexually involved, that pressure they're feeling is sort of a self-imposed pressure… and that creates a culture of higher expectations that aren't really set in reality and it leads to a lot of this guilt about not being involved in sexual relationships and then also guilt when you are," says Dr. Stefanie Sinno, a developmental psychology professor at Muhlenberg.

What a trapped space that young adults at college find themselves within – almost like we can't win. If we act on our desires in the moment, we can find ourselves regretting it the morning after, and if we don't, there's the threat that we aren't grabbing life by the horns and living out our best, young adult years. There seems to be no solution to this apparently inescapable feeling of guilt, a guilt that we can't even put our fingers on or understand where it comes from. But there's an actual explanation for this shame that so many of us get caught up in, and there's a way to mitigate that feeling too.

The phenomenon of post (consensual) sex guilt isn't a new one – researchers refer to it as "post-coital dysphoria" (PCD) or "post-coital blues," and interestingly enough, studies show it affects both men and female alike. According to a 2015 study published in the International Journal of Sexual Health, 46 percent of the 231 women surveyed reported experiencing PCD. Another recent study published in June of this past year also shows a strong prevalence of post sex guilt, as about 40 percent of 1,208 male participants explained that they've also experienced PCD before. So, why are so many of us feeling this sensation? From a developmental psychology stance, there are multiple structures that are functioning at a deep unconscious level that promote, what *Glamour.com* refers to as the "post hookup hangover," particularly in late adolescence. Personal identity, peer expectation and family values are notably amongst some of the elements that ultimately contribute to this hookup hangover when looking at college campuses.

"Teenagers are still in the identity formation time, and part of forming identity is part of your sexual identity and some people that claim sexual identity know how they identify much earlier in teenager years," says Sinno. "However, there's not much space to explore that in most high school community environments, college then becomes the time of actually exploring that identity – what does it actually mean."

This idea of exploring one's own identity becomes a bit more complex when considering that college environments don't exist in a vacuum, nor do we. We're constantly surrounded by our peers who seem to be participating in their own exploration of self, which prompts a pressure to participate in the hookup culture. Sometimes this desire directly opposes our personal or familial values. So how can we possibly merge together our own identity, our peer's expectations of us and our family values harmoniously? The truth is, it's not always a harmonious blend, but it also doesn't have to be.

Sinno suggests that the most effective way of absolving the post sex guilt that comes from this disconnect between the self and the environment is self-awareness and confidence in your own personal desires and decisions. In being conscientious of the peer expectations and family values that might try to govern our actions behind closed doors, we can understand where our own personal values lie, which will ultimately allow us to be more confident in our sexual choices. Being confident in our sexual choices, however, has a lot do with our ability to communicate our wants and desires to our partner, which is a skill that unfortunately many late adolescents haven't acquired. It isn't necessarily our fault, though.

Typically, language regarding sex is introduced into our vocabulary at a point in our lives where we're functioning on the basis that we've already had the ability to learn and apply the elements of these words into our interpersonal relationships. "Parents don't want to talk to their kids about it unless they bring it up, and kids don't want to talk to their parents about it, so it's kind of a standoff," says Sinno. This static relationship makes it difficult for parents to entertain conversations of sex with their children and when they do, it's typically associated with the question of consent in a particularly heterosexual, penetrative way. "Adolescents somewhat feel prepared to say no in that moment but lots of sexual behavior is not that moment, so they don't have language to negotiate how much of this touching do I want," explains Sinno, "it makes so much sense then why we hit policies." Looking to policies to mitigate the issues that can be caused by the lack of communication skills (in certain cases) has been addressed within the Muhlenberg community through recent policy changes.

"Adolescents somewhat feel prepared to say no in that moment but lots of sexual behavior is not that moment, so they don't have language to negotiate how much of this touching do I want."

A new Equal Opportunity and Nondiscrimination Policy (EO Policy) was approved by the Board of Trustees late this October. "It not only meets our legal obligations but also our values as a college," explains Lin Chi-Wang, the college's New Associate Dean of Student and Director of Equity and Title IX. The new EO Policy allows for the "same amount of attention and the same level of protection that we provide for sex discrimination" asserts Wang, as it encompasses a scope of other discriminatory practices regarding gender, race, religion, disabilities in addition to intimate partner violence, stalking, and retaliatory harassment.

"But if we can have conversations prior to something escalating to harassments, that's the ideal," says Wang.

These conversations aren't limited to external ones, though. Internal, proactive, dialogue about our own wants and desires and how we're positioned within structures of our family, peers and institutions, can ultimately help us gain a sense of self- assurance. In addition, this can also eliminate some ambiguity, discomfort and miscommunication that seem to be so intimately related to our teenage drives.

"The fact that anyone ever makes it out of adolescence is a miracle," says Sinno. Considering the sorts of psychological hoops we have to jump through, that statement is hard to argue.

Berg Beat Magazine
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The Muhlenberg Weekly
Chloe Gravereaux - EIC
Matt Riebesell - Managing Editor
Lynne Septon - Publisher

> "Music doesn't argue, discuss, or quarrel, it just breathes the air of freedom."
>
> - Harold Arlen

Somewhere over the rainbow:

The life and times of Harold Arlen

By Lauren D Mazur
Arts & Culture Editor

Somewhere beyond the already pressing deadlines, intense politics, and family dramatics, is a man who wrote a tune that enchanted thousands. His music has influenced the world, and yet his name is not so easy to recognize. This is a tribute to Harold Arlen.

Born as Hyman Arluck in the month of Feb. 1905 in Buffalo, New York, the man grew up in a Jewish household. It wasn't until he began to seriously pursue his career in music that he changed his name to a more known title, Harold Arlen.

One of his greatest inspirations was his father, a cantor in a New York Synagogue. As a cantor, Arlen's father often thought of melodies and toons on the spot during religious services—always putting his own spin on things. Arlen described his father as a genius. "He improvised wonderful melodies to fit the texts that had no music, and that's undoubtedly where my sense of melody comes from."

While you may not recognize Arlen by name alone, you most certainly have heard a song or two by him. Or you have, but simply associated it with one of his friends of the same time period (such as Irving Berlin). Arlen wrote songs for film scores as well as full scale broadway productions, including songs such as: "Stormy Weather", "Get Happy", "Let's Fall in Love", "I Never Has Seen Snow", and of course, "Somewhere Over the Rainbow". Truly, these songs became classics the moment they were heard, lulling and enchanting everyone into a sense of pure *bliss*.

Sasson Lonner / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Brian Ming Chu sings "Paris is a Lonely Town" from the 1962 "Gay Purr-ee".

Last Sunday, Muhlenberg faculty gave us an incredible tribute to Arlen, and all the works he had created throughout his life. The recital was organized in a series of song cycles put in chronological order, in which in between every one or two performances, a brief word about the history and cultural context of the time was mentioned. Not only were the songs done beautifully by students and faculty, but a sense of plot was also provided for the audience to get a clear idea of what had been happening during the timeline.

The event itself was hosted by Music department faculty members Christa Warda and Brian Ming Chu, who had further encouraged their vocal students to perform in the production. Spanning from the early 30s to the 60s, every song was performed to spotlight a certain time in Arlen's life and career. Visuals were also provided as a means of historical relevance, context, and overall aesthetic of the songs in question.

One of Arlen's more somber songs, "I Never Has Seen Snow",struck me on a particularly emotional level. Sung by Jessica Orelus '19, the piece is a love song in which a woman sings of how she has never seen snow, and yet it cannot compare to her love. Orelus performed beautifully. I was struck by the amount of emotion she could put into every phrase—I heard as she heard, I felt as she felt, and I cried as she fell silent.

Chu and Warda gave just as wonderful of a performance with "Let's Fall In Love." A charming ballad between two lovers, both performers gave beautiful and entertaining renditions of the duet. The whole theater was laughing and smiling by the end of their performance.

Then of course, there is the final piece. Featured in the classic film *The Wizard of Oz*, "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" was the perfect piece to end the night with. Sung by all of the cast who participated, all of the students and faculty surrounded the audience in preparation for the final piece. Warda and Chu set the scene.

Sasson Lonner / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Jessica Orelus '19 enchants the audience with her beautifully somber"I Never Has Seen Snow".

Arlen was hired to write the film score for the upcoming screening of *The Wizard of Oz.* When thinking of writing for the young heroine, Dorothy Gale, Arlen knew he needed something lighter—but memorable.

"Music doesn't argue, discuss, or quarrel." Warda quoted Arlen, "it just breathes the air of freedom."

And it wasn't until he went out with his wife, Anya Taranda, that he had an epiphany. The tune of the century, and for the next one, came to Arlen that night. However, its debut had its setbacks. Many felt the song was too high, and that it was too different from the rest of the song in its production. It was too hard to sing. In fact, MGM Studios originally removed the song because they thought it made the film too long; it was because of Arlen's determination to keep the song, and belief in its success, that the song was later added back in.

Judy Garland, who played Dorothy Gale, described the song as simply "a part of my life." She continues, "it is so symbolic of everybody's dream and wish that I am sure that's why people sometimes get tears in their eyes when they hear it. I have sung it dozens of times and it still the song that is closest to my heart."

There are not many who doubt that "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" is a timeless ballad—but Muhlenberg's recital "The Songs and Life of Harold Arlen" reminded us of the man behind that immortalized toon. And as they stand, together in soaring harmony, filling the Recital Hall to the brink with sound, I am sworn to never forget.

A tribute to Ella Fitzgerald

By Abigail Sherman
Staff Writer

Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Fitzgerald strikes a pose for photographer William Gottleib in New York, 1946.

After the first week of this semester, I had the opportunity to go to A Tribute to Ella hosted by the Allentown Symphony Orchestra at Miller Symphony Hall here in Allentown. This concert was dedicated to jazz singer Ella Fitzgerald, who is still considered “The First Lady of Song.” The concert featured solo performer Aisha de Haas and broadway performers Capathia Jenkins and Nikki Renee Daniels, singing Fitzgerald’s classics such as “Blue Skies,” “Somewhere Over the Rainbow,” and “A-Tisket, A-Tasket.”

Over the course of her life, jazz singer Ella Fitzgerald won 13 Grammy awards and sold over 40 million albums. Fitzgerald worked with almost every artist of her era and appears in the Great American Songbook many times, in works written by artists such as Cole Porter, Harold Arlen, and Duke Ellington.

Although Muhlenberg’s shuttle system had been closed and the LANta Bus system was also cancelled, many people braved the snow to attend the concert. As I walked into Miller Symphony Hall for the first time, the good-sized crowd was mostly made up of upper-aged adults, with small groups of Muhlenberg students trickling in to appreciate the classic music and Broadway-caliber performers. Free tickets were offered to Muhlenberg students for this concert and to the rest of the shows in their classical season, including *Appalachian Spring & Rhapsody in Blue, A Midsummer Night’s Dream,* and *Verdi’s Requiem. Verdi’s Requiem* will also be performed by the Muhlenberg College Choir and accompanied by the Allentown Symphony Orchestra.

After executive director of Miller Symphony Hall Al Jacobsen introduced the show, the three stars kicked off the concert with “Strike Up the Band,” followed by Jenkins giving introductions for all the leading ladies. Each woman provided interludes with tidbits of Fitzgerald’s life, with little anecdotes like her first break, where she went to compete in a talent competition as a dancer, but when she saw the girl before her dance, she ran up to the composed and said she would sing instead. She won the competition, and thus started her extensive career as an incredible jazz singer.

Jenkins, de Haas, and Daniels paid great homage to Fitzgerald’s style. Each women stayed true to Fitzgerald’s artistic style while putting in their own little flairs into each song. De Haas was particularly memorable for her incredible scatting abilities, inspiring many people, including myself, in the crowd. Another memorable moment came from Daniels, the young performer of the group, reprising her role as Clara from *Porgy and Bess,* which she played in the 2012 revival on Broadway. Singing “Summertime,” Daniels brought the crowd to collectively hold their breath as she perfectly delivered the song. The show concluded with the women singing a trio of “Mack the Knife” which almost immediately brought the crowd on their feet. A touching moment was when two little girls from the audience brought flowers to each of the women as they took their bows. They exited to put their flowers down, but came back on to perform “I Got Rhythm” and met with the audience after their encore.

After the concert, a group of me and my fellow Muhlenberg students met with the performers and each of them were heard saying, “You’re all so young!” De Haas asked us, “You all know this music?” Melissa Tillman ‘22 attended the concert, and only had rave reviews, saying, “Everything was really well done, and it was a very good selection to show off some of the most famous songs and work that Ella has done.” As a lover of the Great American Songbook, it was an amazing and inspiring performance by these women and the Allentown Symphony Orchestra. Because they offer free tickets to many shows during their season, I encourage any student who loves music and the performing arts to take this opportunity to engage in an amazing asset to the Allentown community.

MUHLENBERG COLLEGE THEATRE & DANCE

MASTER
CHOREOGRAPHERS

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Kevin Jenkins
Michael Nickerson-Rossi
Shelley Oliver
Randall Anthony Smith

Artistic Director:
Karen Dearborn

FEB 7-9

Thursday, 8 PM
Friday 8 PM
Saturday, 2+8 PM

Campus Price: $8

484.664.3333
muhlenberg.edu/dance

Muhlenberg welcomes Gibran Saleem

By Ethan Forrer
Staff Writer

Muhlenberg hosts a lot of events, you just have to check out the activities calendar to see for yourself; they don't, however, advertise these events all that well. This leads to people missing the opportunity to see some mind-numbing comedians like Gibran Saleem and Natalie Cuomo. Now, while mind-numbing might sound kind of bad, it's actually one of the pinnacles of comedic expression—like when you're really tired and everything is just so incredibly funny. Saleem's sense of humor doesn't hold your hand as he tries his hardest to mess up every punchline to the point where you might not get the punchline until he's already halfway through the next joke, which tends to lead to some incorrectly timed laughter.

The night started with Natalie Cuomo warming the unfortunately sparse audience up by chatting with them about the American college life. Thanks to a few vocal members of the audience we were all treated with interesting facts about American life that no one else really knew about either—like that environmental science majors are the ones who mediate those simple Biologist and Chemist, or that Cleveland is actually right next to Mexico but still an hour away from Canada. Cuomo brought a casual approach of comedy to do as the act implies and warm the audience up like we were all chilling and having fun together.

Saleem, on the other hand, was not the good-willed friend who makes sure everyone's having fun on the same page but someone who's having fun spewing stand-up, cracking even himself up with each throw away punchline, enjoying his own routine regardless of whether or not everyone was feeling the same. It's an uplifting experience to see someone doing stand-up because they truly love comedy and what they're doing—not because they've been told they're funny and simply need a job to do. This mindset can add so much to a performance even if it ultimately just boils down to a mentality.

Another style that Saleem used in his performance that also highlights his fast paced and causal style was his use of stuttering while delivering a joke to further personalize and drum up anticipation for its delivery. The strategic stuttering rose to its zenith during his joke about fake white babies for purchase where he started imitating the pitch of a boot-leg, fake baby dealer would give by naming different facts about the baby dolls in question tied together by hand gestures and random sounds. This is the type of humor that requires a recognition of the audience's ability to understand the format of the joke being told and then skips over some of the unneeded aspects to save everyone's time and focus more on the humor that is meant to be conveyed.

It is truly a humbling experience to interact with some of the lesser known comedians that Muhlenberg brings in who are trying their best to make it big but still dedicating so much effort and consideration to even the students of a small college like ours. Both Saleem and Cuomo stuck around after the show to talk to and get to know some of the audience as well as encourage them to reach out and follow them on social media.

To see more of Gibran Saleem and Natalie Cuomo find them on the usual social media suspects and various comedy clubs all over like the New York Comedy Club or the Gotham Comedy club. You can also see Saleem on the comedy series Better Things by Louis CK and Pamela Adlon. Saleem is also currently working on a short comedy film with a handful of other comedians called Gibranistan as well as he is starting work of a series called The Modern Aladdin.

Keep up with Saleem and Cuomo as they comedy their way to stardom and make sure to check out the activities calendar so you don't miss out on more great events like this one.

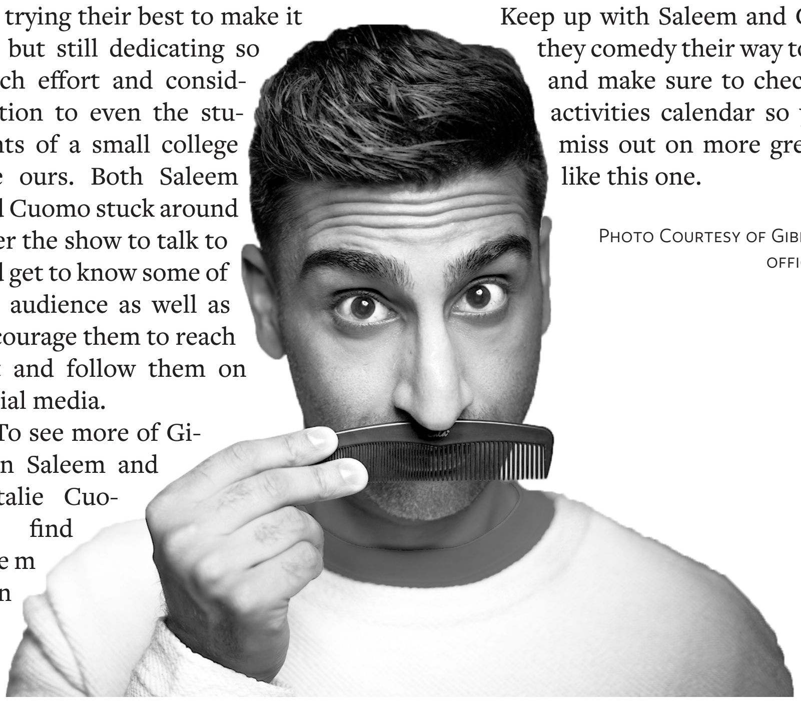


Photo Courtesy of Gibran Saleem's official website.

Artist of the Week:

Thomas Miller searches for a balance of theatre and art

By Arielle Moss
Staff Writer

"My personal philosophy is the audience is the most important thing in theater, otherwise you can just watch a movie or read a book," said Thomas Miller '20.

Miller, a double major in Theater and Art History, did not know that he would find his passion in directing when he first came to Muhlenberg. First performing his freshman year of high school, Miller soon found at Muhlenberg that rather than acting, directing was his calling.

"I don't like talking on stage. I realized that this is a big thing for me. I can be present and move and be a clown or whatever. I can juggle, but that doesn't require require talking. I can do *Rocky* because you have to lip sync. You don't have to speak," said Miller.

Miller's directing style is to particularly bring out the *weird* within his productions. He believes that theater should not appear natural, as it is not natural. He likes to put an emphasis on presentational meaning that acting is not as natural as it is on a stage.

"My philosophy is how do you make a striking image and make the audience feel that little weird butterfly in their stomachs," said Miller.

As a Muhlenberg student, Miller has taken two directing classes, directed two Red Door plays, assistant directed a studio production called *Wasp* as well as a Main stage production of *My Fair Lady*.

"Directing most of the time sucks, but gives a feeling of fulfillment," said Miller.

Even though Miller does not like speaking on stage, he has found other ways to perform without necessary speaking; he has participated in many of the semesterly performances of *Rocky Horror Picture Show* and is a member of the Muhlenberg Circus as a juggler.

The first time he auditioned for the circus, Miller did not get a spot on the team, however, he noticed that during his freshman year there were seniors who were jugglers, and that he had a chance to get into the circus as a juggler, after they graduated. He spent half a year learning how to juggle and would practice for five hours each day—eventually Miller became a member of the circus in the Fall of his sophomore year.

"I like to say that it [learning how to juggle] is the first and only New Year's resolution that I've actually stuck to," said Miller.

Now, Miller teaches a juggling workshop every Wednesday.

The greatest challenge he has as a director and teacher is figuring out how to work with people in an effective manner and with budgeting time.

"I think the biggest challenge is figuring out how to work with people, but through that I have become a better collaborator and educator," said Miller.

Besides being a Theater major, Thomas is also an Art History major. When he was a senior in high school he took AP Art History and he "accidentally" discovered that he was good at the subject as he earned a five on the exam. Since earning a five transfers to a college credit, Miller originally planned on minoring in history. However, after his sophomore year he realized he completed the minor, so he decided to declare it as a major and after the current semester, he will only need two more credits for him to be finished with his Art History major.

His two majors connect as it is important to have a background in history while directing.

"It is a lot of historical context. If you said France in the 1920s, I would have a general idea what kind of setting or style context that could be whether it is cubism or surrealism," said Miller.

"That translates into theater," Miller continued, "being that you have evocative styles or stylizations of art and you can draw on the general history of what is happening in this world at this time and how did people express themselves."

In arts as a whole, Miller is most proud of his work in the circus as an educator.

"The people who show up to the juggling workshops seem to have a great time. I like explaining things and correcting and helping with their technique. They seem really proud with their accomplishments," said Miller.

At this time, Miller is not yet sure if he wants to pursue a career in directing or go into the museum route with arts education. In terms of art, he believes that you should make something for your own fulfillment.

"If it doesn't spark why," Miller asked, "why are you doing it?"

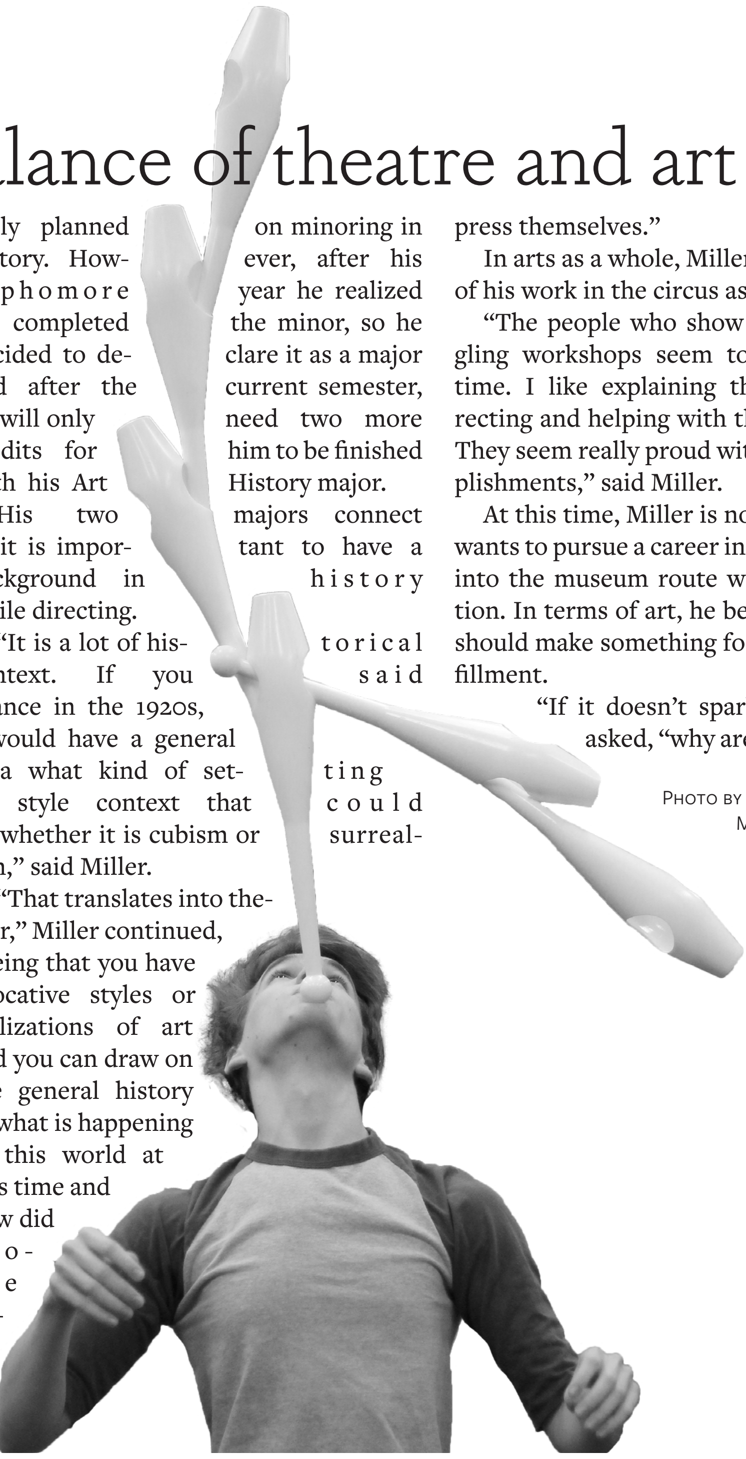


Photo by Cole Geissler / The Muhlenberg Weekly

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY/OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

Editorial

From complaining to censoring?

When readers try to control the news

On an almost daily basis President Trump criticizes the media as being "fake news," resulting in fears of possible media censorship. People worry that despite the First Amendment protection of freedom of the press, the government will still dictate what can and cannot be reported on. This is the thought that comes to people's minds when they hear the word "censorship." Though government censorship is not the only type.

For a major publication like The New York Times, censorship can come in the form of requesting the removal of articles from its website not because they are inaccurate or inflammatory but because a reader does not like or agree with what is written or the topic.

The first amendment protects the individual just as much as it protects the press. Disliking an article or not agreeing with it and saying so publicly falls within an individual's rights. Writing the article in the first place falls within the press's rights. Telling the newspaper that they cannot print or must remove the article falls under censorship.

For a student newspaper like The Weekly, censorship can come in the form of funding. The Weekly is completely student run and derives much of its funding from the student activities fee. Should the Student Government Association decide to pull funding then The Weekly would be forced to stop printing.

This scenario nearly happened in 2016 at Wesleyan University when the student newspaper published an opinion piece criticizing the Black Lives Matter movement and the student government disagreed with this critic and decided to cut the Wesleyan campus paper's funding simply because the student government did not like the opinion piece. The school's paper has since received funding and changes have been made to allow them to continue to operate without fear of censorship.

While it is important to be critical of media, to consume a variety of news sources and to form your own opinions, it can be a slippery slope from complaining to censoring. It is times like these when we must remember that the main purpose of journalism is to inform the public. According to the Corporation of Public Broadcasting the purpose of media "is to provide programs and services that inform, educate, enlighten, and enrich the public and help inform civil discourse essential to American society."

We at The Muhlenberg Weekly strive to provide truthful and reliable coverage in our news, arts and culture and sports sections and diverse and interesting views and discussions in our opinion and editorial sections. We highly encourage students to submit their own opinions and letters to the editor when you agree, disagree, or have any type of opinion on a certain subject.

As civil rights activist Dolores Huerta said: "When you have a conflict, that means that there are truths that have to be addressed on each side of the conflict. And when you have a conflict, then it's an educational process to try to resolve the conflict. And to resolve that, you have to get people on both sides of the conflict involved so that they can dialogue."

Media gives a platform to have that dialogue, a stage on which to present these differing opinions. By removing one side or eliminating the stage all together we cannot learn.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

GRAPHIC OPINIONS

The return of Young Justice

Young Justice
OUTSIDERS

By Melissa Reph
Online Content Editor

Last Friday saw the midseason finale of one of the most anticipated shows of the year. I'm not talking about *Brooklyn-99* or *The Bachelor*. Rather the animated show *Young Justice*.

Based on characters from DC Comics, the show follows the adventures of a group of teen superheroes. It takes the company's much loved sidekicks and teen heroes and combines storylines from the *Teen Titans* comics of the 80's and early 2000's with the *Young Justice* comics of the 90's to create its own unique story about growing up and saving the world.

In 2013 the show was cancelled by Cartoon Network after its second season and left viewers on a major cliffhanger as one of the first season's main characters, Wally West, was seemingly killed. Other plotlines were left dangling and longtime viewers like myself were left shocked and annoyed.

2016 rolled around and the age of binge watching had officially settled in, with it was *Young Justice*'s release on Netflix. The show regained popularity as fans new and old alike streamed it and once again expressed their discontent with being cancelled after two seasons. The rise in popularity on Netflix and fan petitions, in additions to social media campaigns, gained the attention of Warner Brothers and DC. By the end of the year it was announced that the show would indeed be returning for a third season.

Since 2016 news of the return has been fairly steady and when DC announced their own streaming platform, DC Universe, it was with the third season of *Young Justice* as an exclusive that brought in subscribers.

Young Justice officially premiered the third season in early January, releasing three episodes each Friday with an extra forth for the midseason finale this past week. The show is now on hiatus until June and I can finally tamper my excitement at its long awaited return (five whole years) and take a more analytical look at it.

The original two seasons were complex -- and in my opinion part of the reason it did so poorly airing at a 10:30 a.m. time slot on a Saturday morning -- with multiple characters and storylines that stretched out over the course of the season.

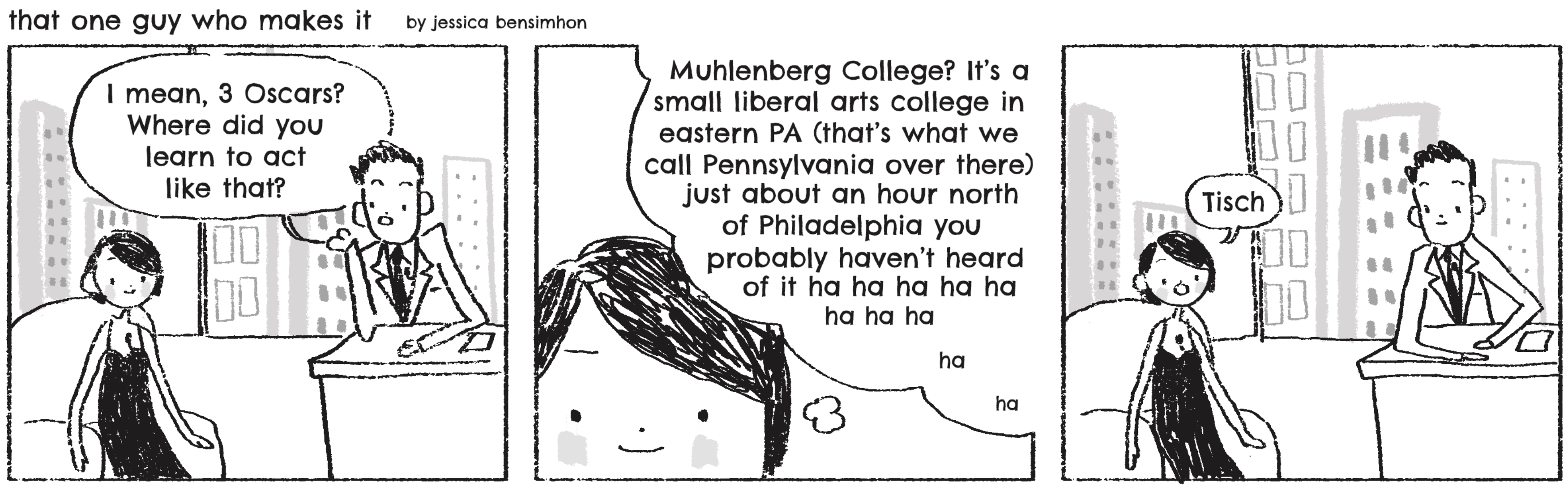
The first season had a main cast of seven characters by the end, with an extensive list of secondary characters and villains pulling from all corners of the comics. The main cast was then more than doubled for the second season as a two year time jump took place and the focus shifted off the original members of "the team" and onto the new ones.

Just keeping track of so many characters can be confusing, not to mention when you have three or more complex plots happening over the course of multiple episodes and the typical "villain of the week" as is typical with superhero shows.

The third season has managed to be even more complex, adding in more characters and interconnected storylines in addition to focusing on the Justice League and other characters in addition to the team of young heroes. This means that some characters or storylines are only seen or touched on once in the entire first half.

As much as I love this show, have loved this show, and enjoyed the third season I have some complaints. I get so excited to see so many of my favorite characters, especially minor ones, being included but with so many characters to juggle you don't really get to see these characters at all. They exist on the screen for a few minutes with minimal effect on anything often times and then are gone. Without spoiling, they have decided to use a storyline from the *Teen Titans* comics that is one of the most famous but I had hoped would be avoided as there are so many others that could be done and this particular one has become frankly overused.

I am beyond thrilled that the show is back and if you corner me and get me talking I will ramble at all the great things about the new season. There are so many! I just hope that the second half surprises me with its plot, as right now it seems very obvious, and actually allows fans to get to know so many of these wonderful characters they're trying to include.


that one guy who makes it
by jessica bensimhon
I mean, 3 Oscars? Where did you learn to act like that?
Muhlenberg College? It's a small liberal arts college in eastern PA (that's what we call Pennsylvania over there) just about an hour north of Philadelphia you probably haven't heard of it ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha
ha
ha
Tisch

Will Wamser finally sold out

A desperate plea to Werther's Originals

By Will Wamser
Op/Ed Editor

Welcome back everyone. Before getting into the thick of it, I need to clear the air a little bit. Firstly, I welcome all my friends and acquaintances who were abroad last semester, I assume you all read my many many articles. If any of you missed even a single one of my articles, then I am giving you one week to rectify this insolence. If a week passes and you have not made good on your holy promise, then do NOT expect any valentines cards from this guy. Now that we have covered the important stuff, let's get to the junk.

I know there's one question on everyone's mind, thousands if not dozens of people have been hounding me for the answer. I can't take two steps without someone accosting me with, what I must admit is both a curse and a gift. The question plaguing this campus; "What makes you the Muhlen-babe of Muhlenberg?" For those of you who don't know what this is referring to, grow up already. If you go to snapchat you will see a custom filter declaring myself, Will Wamser, to be the Muhlen-babe of Muhlenberg. This came to be when an associate of mine, Bill Bamser (long story), wrote a beautifully written article entitled "Oh, how I've longed for a geo-tag of my own" lamenting his life for not having a custom snapchat filter. This caught the attention of Snapchat LLC, causing them to contact me, seeing as Bill Bamser died (I'm telling you, it's a long story). Basically, Snapchat thought I was enough of a Muhlen-babe to declare me THE Muhlen-babe of Muhlenberg. I thank them and honor them.

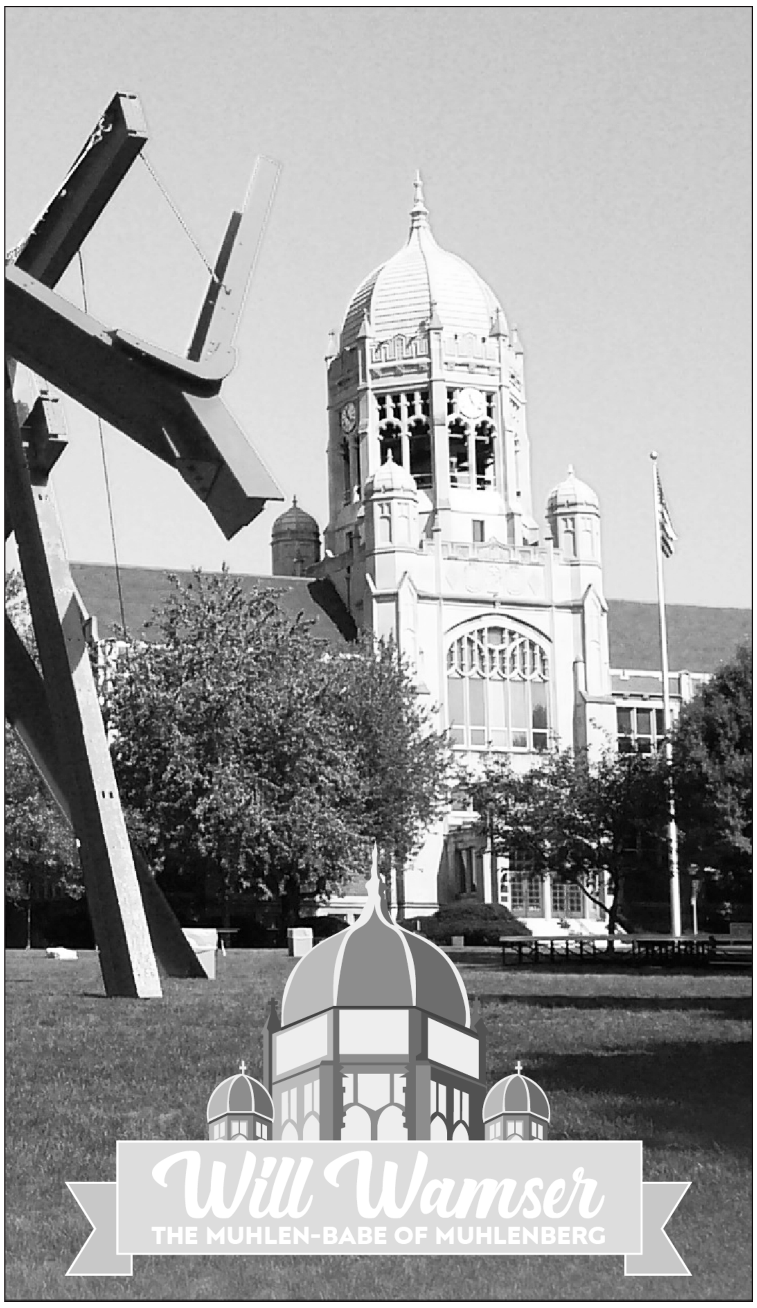
But that's not even the point of this article, that was just an update for all you boyles (nine nine!) and ghouls. The real point of this article is that I'm SO sad that I don't have a year's worth of Werther's Original Hard Candies. Boo hoo. My life just isn't complete until I get an entire year's supply of Werther's Original Hard Candies. Oh wow, I'm just crying all over the place. If I could get some of those nice Werther's Originals I'd probably use them to wipe my tears away. If only there was some gullible, uh I mean kind, company out there that would supply me with three Werther's Originals for every one of the 365 days in the year, making for a total of 1,095 distinct Werther's Original Hard Candies. It's just so difficult not having my Werther's, they follow my brain everywhere I go.

I'm SO sad that I don't have a year's worth of Werther's Original Hard Candies. Boo hoo.

For instance, whenever I go to my Gam Gam's, which is often, she's flaunting her Werther's Originals right in front of me and I just can't take it anymore. I've warned her time and time again, but she won't stop rubbing her Werther's Originals in my face. Do you know what it's like to have your own Gam Gam mock and torture you? It's not as much fun as you'd think. My Gam Gam has been causing me a lot of pain and misery, and Werther's you have the power to make it all stop, to make her stop.

But enough about my sweet old Gam Gam. Werther's, let's get real. I hate murder as much as the next guy. I don't want to do it, you don't want me to do it, so just help me out. Help me, help you. Just to be clear, in case any straightedge folks are reading, I'm not gonna do anything, especially not kill anyone. But, If I had a year's worth of Werther's Originals, maybe I'm more likely to not do anything. Let's just say that the ball is in your court Werther's, be smart.

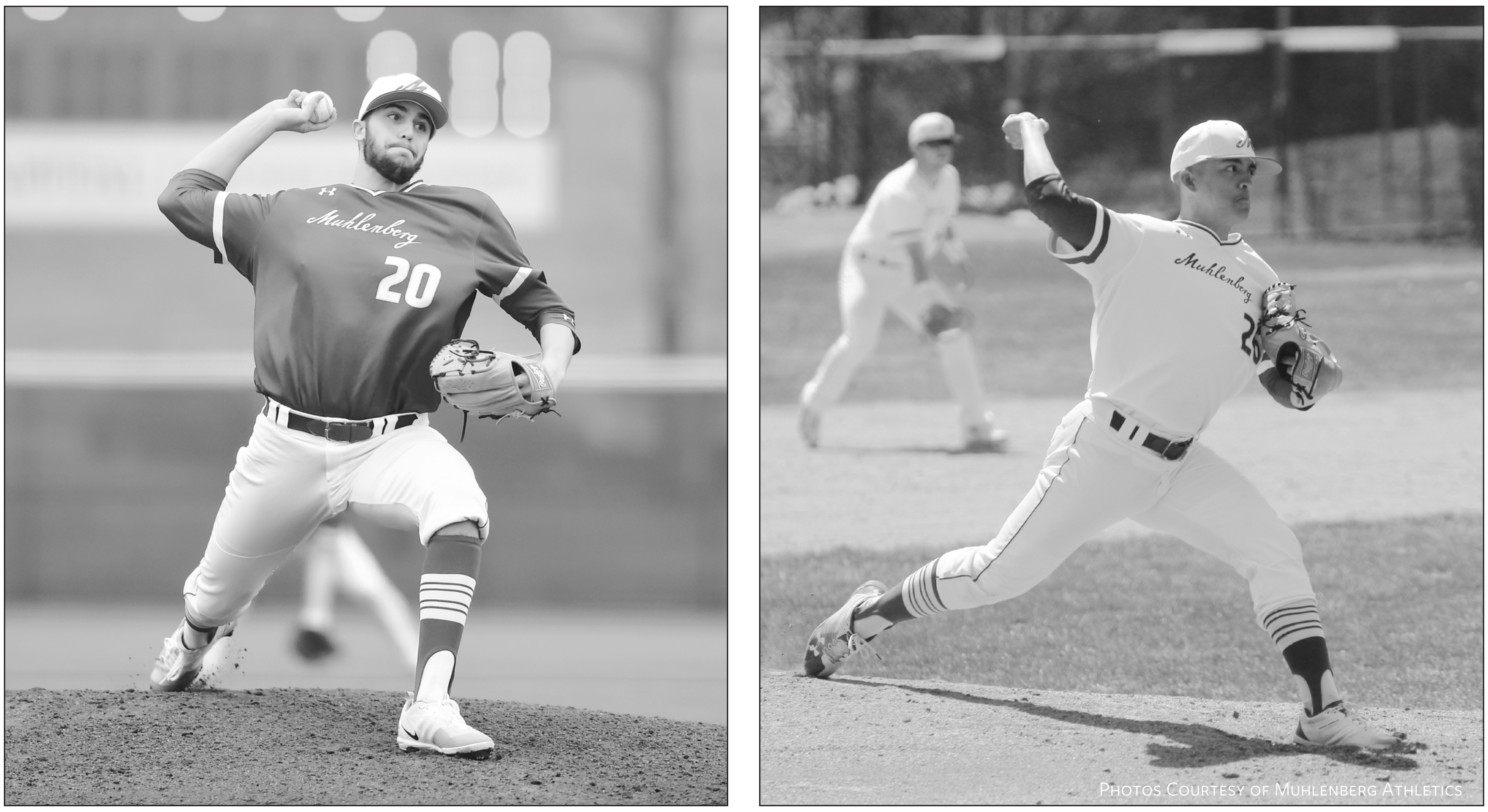
Look, I'm not a bad guy, it's just like the title of the article says "Will Wamser loves Werther's," and I'm just a guy who loves Werther's, what's wrong with that? Hold on, I'm being told that that is not the title of this article. Apparently, the title is "Will Wamser finally sold out," so that's just great. I really think that's unfair, I am not selling out. I am just a guy who is using his platform to tell everyone about how much he loves his Werther's Originals and boy do I wish I had some, specifically 1,095 (or 1,098 if 2019 is a leap year), Werther's Originals. But if it just so happens that I get some free Werther's Originals out of this thing, then mission accomplished.



Look I'm not selling out, I'm just cashing in. It's all one big ill-conceived gambling metaphor. The chips are the Werther's, the cards are the Werther's, the dealer is the Werther's and the Werther's are me. And at the end of the day, the house always wins. So, I'd be a fool not to be a fan. I'm actually such a big fan that maybe Werther's better give me something special for my being a fan. Fans with articles deserve nice things, and I deserve the nicest of them all. I don't expect anything, but I better get EVERYTHING. And in case anyone was wondering, like maybe August Storck, you can contact me through facebook.

Pitchers earn All-American Honors

The accomplishments of two experienced pitchers inspire hopes for a successful season for Muhlenberg Baseball



Photos Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Left: D'Ambrosia '20 finished the year with 75 strikeouts. Right: Hennessey '19 had an impressive 2.67 ERA in 2018

By Jason Grant
Assistant Sports Editor

Coming off an impressive year where they made the Centennial Conference playoffs, two Muhlenberg pitchers were named pre-season All-Americans in Division III.

RJ Hennessey '19 and Matthew D'Ambrosia '20 were recognized by "The Podcast About D3 Baseball" for their performances on the mound last year. Hennessey was picked for the second-team while D'ambrosia was an honorable mention. Muhlenberg had a quality 2018 season, falling to Centennial Conference foes in Franklin & Marshall and Johns Hopkins in the postseason.

Hennessey finished the season with a 5-4 record and a miniscule 2.67 ERA, while tossing 4 complete games, good enough to tie for the most in the Centennial Conference.

D'Ambrosia was just as successful, posting a 5-3 record with a team leading 75 strikeouts, finishing second in the conference. His most memorable win of the year came against Centennial Conference rival Dickinson. D'ambrosia put up Scherzer-like numbers, throwing a complete game shutout, giving up just three hits and striking out 15 batters. D'Ambrosia finished the season one strikeout shy of breaking the single season record for a Mules pitcher.

The senior righty is certainly happy with the award, but knows there is more to accomplish to consider this season a success. "The preseason awards just come from the season we both had last year. We worked hard for the results we got," said Hennessey. "In a way it puts more of a target on our backs as teams will want to beat us even more."

Muhlenberg's pitching was easily their best weapon last season in which the team went 11-7 in conference play. They finished third in the standing at season's end, behind only Hopkins and Swarthmore.

"It feels great to be a part of a pitching staff that has had so much success recently. It's a great feeling to be able to work everyday with everyone of the guys on our staff," said D'Ambrosia. "It's a great atmosphere everyday that really pushes me to get better."

Ever since the hiring of Head Coach Tod Gross in 2012, the pitching staff has excelled. In his first season, the Mules had their lowest team ERA in 10 years, and last year they set a program record with 288 strikeouts. D'Ambrosia and Hennessey accounted for more than half of those punch outs with a combined 146. Gross had high praise for his pitchers' performances last year, "RJ and Matt have worked extremely hard over the years and last season they both had really good years on the mound, helping lead our pitching staff to breaking the school record for strikeouts for the second consecutive year."

Coach Gross also emphasized the roles these two pitchers had on the successful staff as a whole, including their impact on underclassman: "RJ and Matt will once again be looked at as a big part of our pitching staff. They both lead by example which helps our younger pitchers each day."

If the Mules' pitching continues to improve as it has been, they will be a force in the Centennial Conference.

Also returning for the Mules staff are sophomores Truman Devitt '21 and Paul Poppert '21 who both had a strong first-year seasons as well. Devitt threw for 42 innings while posting a respectable 3.43 ERA and Poppert added 29 strikeouts in just over 27 innings. Both had successful outings down the stretch against Centennial Conference opponents as well.

D'Ambrosia also described a solid bond between the Muhlenberg pitchers that - he thinks - helps them work towards their goals. "Everyday we push each other and compete with each other to beat the next guy out for innings. We are all working to be the best that we can be, and with that attitude and competitive atmosphere, we have gotten so much better as a staff." D'Ambrosia continued, "While it is a competition between guys for innings, everyone is always helping each other to make sure we are all ready to dominate every time. We also have a ton of trust in each other to go out and pick each other up."

With such a strong staff the pitchers will certainly give their offense chances to win many games. The squad will look to start the year out strong, as it opens the season on Feb. 23. They will travel to the West Virginia University campus to face Alfred State and Brockport.

The accolades D'Ambrosia and Hennessey received seem to have inspired the team as they head into the season with lofty expectations. Making the conference playoffs this year is expected, but these two pitchers are aware that preseason recognition doesn't mean much if they don't perform.

Hennessey put it best: "Yeah, being recognized is cool and all, but that doesn't help either of us win ball games."

What break?

As the school took winter break to rest, Wrestling was hard at work

By Noah Brill
Contributing Writer

While many students used the recent break as a chance to unwind after a long and taxing semester, that was not the case for the wrestling team, which had a busy winter schedule.

The group used their trips to Williamsport, Pennsylvania and Ft. Lauderdale, Florida as an opportunity to come together. Although the team had already participated in several matches during the fall semester portion of their winter season, they had the advantage of being able to focus on solely wrestling over the college's recess, which was hard to do in the early part of the season. Challenges the student athletes faced include balancing their athletic commitments with a full collegiate course load, and many members of the team were simultaneously grappling the standard first year challenges, such as the adjustment to living away from home for the first time.

> **"It was a very beneficial experience, mainly due to the fact that there was lots of tough competition at hand."**

"[The trips] were a very beneficial experience, mainly due to the fact that there was lots of tough competition at hand," said Angelo Mahaffey '22. "The trip was also a great bonding experience, when we weren't supporting each other from the corner, or even wrestling at that, we were relaxing in the Florida sun. We even rented our own house to aid in the bonding experience. We played card games, conversed and all around grew

see **Wrestling** page 11

Coming up this week in
SPORTS
Feb 1 through Feb 2

Women's Basketball
Muhlenberg
vs
Johns Hopkins
Saturday, Feb. 2 @ 4:00 pm
Memorial Hall

Wrestling
Muhlenberg
vs
Gettysburg & McDaniel
Saturday, Feb. 2 @ 10:00 am
Collegeville, Pa.

Men's and Women's
NYU Invitational
Friday, Feb. 1
The Armory - New York, N.Y.

Women's Basketball
Muhlenberg
vs
McDaniel
Saturday, Feb. 2 @ 2:00 pm
Memorial Hall

FROM **WRESTLING** PAGE 10

closer," added Mahaffey.

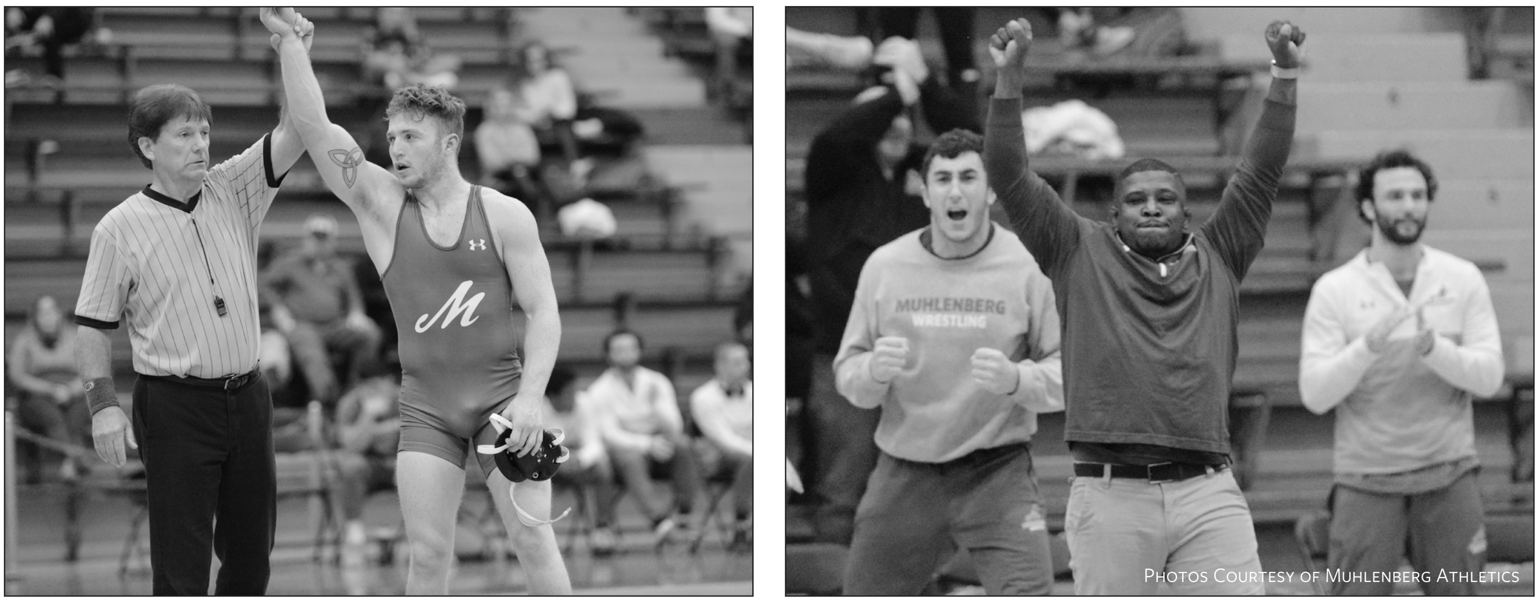
Despite the fun the team had both in and out of the gym, it was not easy for the wrestlers to be away from their families over the vacation and retain the same level of intensity they had during the semester, as they already had a large part of their grueling season under their belts, along with the fatigue from their dual commitment to wrestling and their academics.

Dylan Schwartz '20 shared what he found most difficult about missing the holiday season at home. "Break is always the toughest part of the season. It's tough for everyone to be away from home for most of break and working hard every day" said Schwartz.

One of the main reasons the team enjoyed the trip so much is because of second year coach Jason McLean '01 at the helm of the program. The emphasis around the team's assets as opposed to possible weaknesses not only boosts players' individual confidence, but it is a large contributor to the team's collective spirit. "Coach McLean always puts a positive spin on our performances and makes it easier for us to see what we did right rather than what we did wrong," said Schwartz. The junior 165 lb. wrestler also indicated the attitude that Coach Mclean maintains around the team is a large reason for their 17-6 overall record thus far.

Although the results were not exactly what the team had hoped for, the bonding experience will hopefully aid the wrestlers' success throughout the remainder of this season. The team has remained busy since their return from the Sunshine State and started off 2019 with trips to Ewing, New Jersey to battle the number 15 The College of New Jersey and number 18 New York University falling in both matches against the nationally ranked opponents. They rebounded at the North/South Duals against Elizabethtown, Rhode Island College, Penn College, and Shippensburg, winning each match in Collegeville, Pennsylvania.

The Mules have matches this coming Saturday, Feb. 2 in Grantham, Pennsylvania, where they will participate in the Messiah Open, and again in Collegeville, where they will face Gettysburg and McDaniel. These will be the only two matches before the Centennial Conference Championships on Feb 9.


Photos Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Left: Dylan Schwartz '20 has his arm raised following his victory against Ursinus. Right: Coach Jason Mclean '01 celebrates as his team's win.

Gearing up for another year

Women's Lacrosse coming off a down year, looks to be bigger and badder

By Alex Blum
Sports Editor

In a little less than a month on Saturday Feb. 23, the 2019 Muhlenberg women's lacrosse season will commence as the Mules take on the Arcadia University Knights at Scotty Wood Stadium.

After closing out last year with a rather disappointing record of 7-8, the Mules return having lost five seniors with a chip on their shoulder and a statement to make. However, although they may be without those five vital seniors, eight new and young freshmen are stepping in to take the reigns.

As players return return from their semesters abroad and their veteran leadership returns to facilitate the development of the the newly-added freshmen, the Muhlenberg women's lacrosse team look to have a much different season than they did in 2018.

As the season quickly approaches, the eight new faces look to make a smooth transition and fit nicely on the team as well as the system that Coach Stuckel and the rest of the coaching staff have put in place. They also look to come in and provide an immediate impact. Melissa Rudberg '19, expressed her confidence in this year's freshman class and hopes to see them fit in with the group still there and with those returning from their semesters abroad. "We have eight new freshman joining the team and they are really an athletic bunch with solid stick work. A lot of them saw the field during our fall season and with a lot of our juniors studying abroad in the fall, I am excited to see how the freshman connect with the rest of the team come Feb. 1," said Rudberg. Not only is Rudberg excited to watch the future stars truly begin their collegiate careers, but she is also determined to enter the season with a different mindset. "Last season was filled with many ups and downs. After our 2017 season, we lost a very strong senior class, losing six significant starters. We lost our starting goalie and the majority of our attacking end. So, last year was definitely a rebuilding year for us. But with all the open spots, it gave younger players the opportunity to gain experience and skill, which will certainly make us a tougher competitor this upcoming season," Rudberg explained. Coach Stuckel constantly drives home the idea of mental toughness and that is something Rudberg is carrying with her into the season and even into the classroom. "Over my four years playing for Stuckel, I have definitely learned that one of the ways to be successful as a student athlete is to be mentally tough. Anytime we are running a difficult run test, Stuckel always asks us to check our mental toughness. If your mindset is negative, you won′t allow yourself to get to that next level, you won′t be able to catch the girl in front of you. Mental toughness is something that took awhile for me to gain, and I am definitely still working at it. Stuckel′s idea of mental toughness has helped me off the field, especially in the classroom as well."

Photos Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Melissa Rudberg '19 looks to rip a shot versus Ursinus.

Much like Rudberg, Morgan Weiss '19 also expressed her excitement for the talent and energy that the new faces bring. "The freshman have a lot of talent, which we saw during Fall Ball. With the juniors being abroad the freshman had a lot more time to gel with the rest of the team and were able to play a greater amount because of our shortened roster. They bring a lot of new energy and I am really excited to see what they all do this season." After failing to produce to the level that they had wished for themselves, Weiss is well aware that every single member of the team needs to go out there every game and play at the highest level. "After coming off a disappointing season, we know that there is nothing to lose. Our team motto this season is 'Fear Nothing' so we want to go into every game with as much intensity and drive as possible. We really need everyone to step up to fill every position because each person plays such an important role for our team," Weiss said. Weiss, a senior defender and captain on the Mules, has been attentive to the message that Coach Stuckel has been emphasizing all throughout the offseason. "Coach has really been pushing us and motivating us throughout this offseason to get in the best shape we can and keep our sticks in our hands. The better each player is in those areas the quicker we can get into the more important concepts during the season. Coach′s motto is to ″Speak With Action″ and that is something that really sticks with our team and drives us to continue working hard."

Opening day for the 2019 women's lacrosse season is nearing close. After an rather disappointing season last year, the Mules look to come back stronger, better, and as the team motto goes "Fear Nothing."

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Racking up the records:

Men's Lacrosse hopes to build on their most successful season in program history

Photos Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

By Matt Riebesell
Managing Editor

The year 2018 went into the record books as the most successful season in men's lacrosse history. Their 11-7 record marked the most wins in a single season, and they shattered their previous mark for most goals in a season, eclipsing the previous mark of 150 with a staggering 205.

Individually, Mules on the 2018 team scattered themselves throughout the record book in virtually every statistical category. Face-offs and ground balls? Frankie Feaster '20 dominated, now holding the records for most in each category in a single season and a career.

Saves? Garrett Pope '21 was third in the Conference and has the fifth most in a Muhlenberg single season.

Scoring? Ethan Grossman '21 led the attack. As a freshman, Grossman already holds the single season marks for points, goals and assists. He is also second for most hat tricks in a single season with seven. He is destined to shatter every career scoring statistical category by the end of his Muhlenberg tenure, even on pace to break some this season.

Enough about 2018. The 2019 season commences on Feb. 1 for spring sports (per Centennial Conference regulations), and this year's team is working to build on last season's success.

But expecting two successive seasons with great success can't be realistic... right?

Well, maybe this team can set their expectations high.

"We return more than 30 student athletes and a lot of playing experience from the 2018 team," said Jake Plunket, who will serve his fourth season as head men's lacrosse coach. "Combined with young freshman talent, four transfers, and key returners from injury, we have extremely high expectations for this year′s team."

To begin the 2018 season, the Mules went on an eight game win streak, all against non-conference opponents. 2019 pits the Mules against some familiar non-conference opponents, like Drew University, Scranton University, Moravian College, and Susquehanna University. The two new opponents on the 2019 schedule are Southern Virginia––who they will be playing on the back end of the team's annual spring break trip––and St. Mary's of Maryland.

"I am most excited to start off the season as hot as we did last year because of how good we looked during the end of the spring," said Grossman. "This year's program is better than last year's program because now we have more experience. We worked hard on our sticks this offseason as well as us running a lot. We're in great shape."

Plunket backed up his star attackman. "From a coach's perspective, the leadership and work ethic of our young team has been impressive in the offseason." Plunket credited Muhlenberg Strength and Conditioning coach Darin Thomas for pushing the men in the weight room.

During the team's conference schedule the Mules will have to prepare for tough battles. The Centennial is recognized as one of the best Division III conferences in the nation for men's lacrosse. To end 2018 three Centennial Conference teams, Gettysburg (third), Dickinson (ninth), and Franklin & Marshall (thirteenth) were all ranked in the final national poll.

Last season the Mules captured two conference matchups, winning against Swarthmore and McDaniel in back to back contests. The win against Swat was the first win against a Centennial Conference opponent since 2014.

"We look to build off our big wins in the conference last season and compete for a spot in our conference tournament," said Plunket.

Scott Fayan '20 believes in this program's talent, but admits that it takes more to be a playoff contender in such a strong Conference. "In a conference like ours where we won't always be able to outtalent a team, we have to beat them in other areas; conditioning, hard work, and discipline," said the junior attacker.

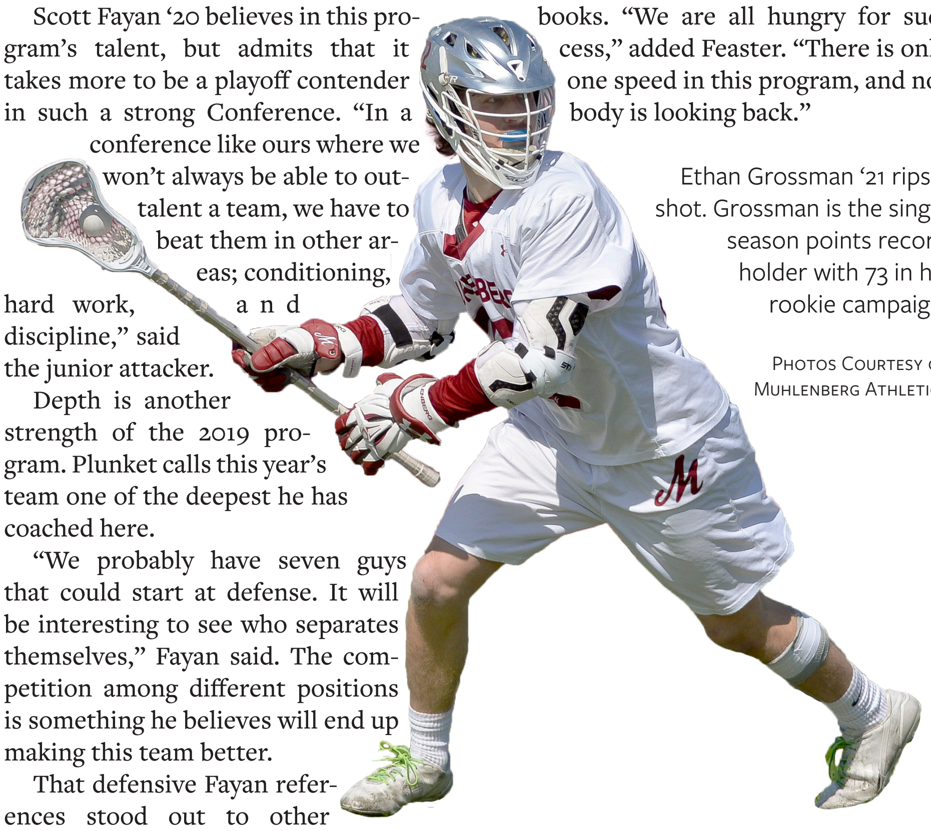
Depth is another strength of the 2019 program. Plunket calls this year's team one of the deepest he has coached here.

"We probably have seven guys that could start at defense. It will be interesting to see who separates themselves," Fayan said. The competition among different positions is something he believes will end up making this team better.

That defensive Fayan references stood out to other members of the team too. "Our teams greatest strength is having our whole defense return with some good freshman added to it, and Garrett Pope (goalie) backing them up." Grossman said.

Feaster agreed explaining why the unit is so successful. "Our defense is always talking through slides and our offensive midfielders and attackmen are all becoming more vocal."

With a new level of completeness, the 2019 Muhlenberg team has high expectations, and will likely land some new and familiar names throughout the record books. "We are all hungry for success," added Feaster. "There is only one speed in this program, and nobody is looking back."



Ethan Grossman '21 rips a shot. Grossman is the single season points record holder with 73 in his rookie campaign.

Photos Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

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Crunch time: Berg basketball programs in hunt for playoff
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NEWS

The new CARE Team assists struggling students with concerns ranging from mental health issues to financial stress.

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A&C

Faculty ensemble Night's Black Bird gives us a feel for the past. Performing music from the late Renaissance to the early baroque, the term ‘classical’ music is redefined for all who simply listen.

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OP/ED

The Editorial Board talks about the systemic racism within the medical industry, specifically the misperception of black women's pain tolerance, often resulting in death.

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SPORTS

After an underwhelming season in 2018, new coach, Jason Toedter wants to change the dynamic of the team prioritizing class and unity.

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Welcoming the year of the boar

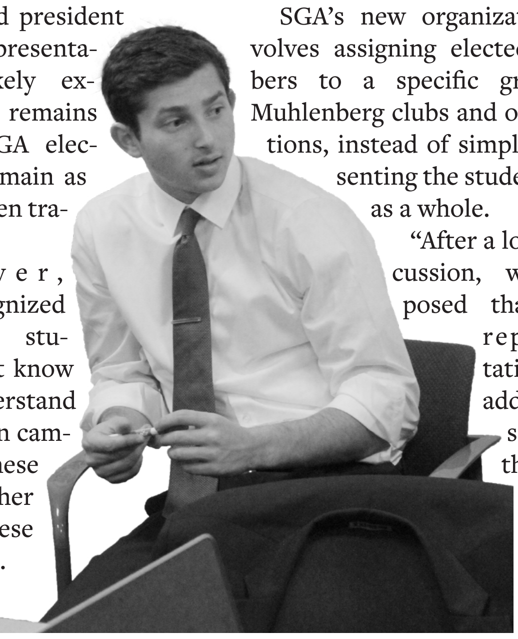
The Asian Student Association (and friends) worked hard to present the best lunar new year celebration at ‘Berg yet. Read about this year's festivities on page 5.

Cole Geissler / The Muhlenberg Weekly

New ‘constituencies’ to improve SGA-student communication

By Laura Schwarz
Asst. News Editor

This semester, Muhlenberg's Student Government Association (SGA) is changing the way it interacts with clubs and organizations on campus through representative ‘constituencies’. SGA president Karlee Makely, ‘19, has spearheaded the organization of the new representational structure in the pursuit of creating stronger relationships between students and their student government.



“In the past SGA functioned as an elected president and 22 representatives,” Makely explains. “This remains true and SGA elections will remain as they have been traditionally.”

However, Makely recognized that many students do not know or understand SGA's role on campus, and these worries led her to seek these new changes.

“We are aware [that] the average student was completely unaware of what SGA does and does not do,” says Makely. “Students and organizations solely interacted with us to obtain their yearly funds. The purpose of SGA is to represent students in voicing their concerns, promote student interests and advocate for student life in and out of the academic classroom. The current assembly became frustrated [that] we could not build better relationships with the students and ultimately worried we were not accurately representing them.”

SGA's new organization involves assigning elected members to a specific group of Muhlenberg clubs and organizations, instead of simply representing the student body as a whole.

“After a lot of discussion, we proposed that SGA representatives, in addition to serving the entirety of the school, would attend to a specific ‘constituency’,” says Makley. “It is now structured more like our elected government legislators, but instead of serving a geographical demographic, representatives will serve several organizations in a similar niche. Our representatives will tend to the specific needs, concerns and overall goals of their respective students while keeping consistent with the greater goals of Muhlenberg's student government.”

> *“Ideally, we are hoping our representatives will form more personal relationships with these groups and the SGA will become more approachable and greater utilized on campus.”*

Examples of ‘constituency’ groups include Residence Life, Multicultural Life, Academic Clubs, Performance Groups, Religious Life, Community Engagement and Social/Political Organizations. SGA representatives are assigned their group through the process of ranking their top five choices.

Considering the diverse interests and changing levels of students' club attendance, SGA has planned to adjust the groupings each year depending on levels of student involvement.

“The amount of groups and representatives assigned to each ‘constituency’ is to be assessed yearly as membership fluctuates,” explains Makely. “For instance, religious life only consists of four organizations. Hillel alone makes up for a huge percent of our campus community. On the other hand, the academic constituency consists of around eighteen clubs because participation is much lower.”

Although Makely worries

see **Constituencies** page 3

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

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We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

Monday, January 29
Door alarm - 12:27 a.m.
Report of alarm at Multicultural Center due to propped open door. Door was closed by campus safety.

Sick visitor - 2:00 p.m.
Report of a sick visitor at Walson Hall. Muhlenberg and Allentown EMS responded and individual was transported to the hospital.

Burglary - 8:50 a.m.
Report of theft of items in East Hall. Investigation to continue.

Found property - 8:26 p.m.
Report of found wallet in Seegers, message left for owner to retrieve at Campus Safety Office.

Tuesday, January 29
Welfare check - 4:45 a.m.
Report to locate student at East Hall. Contact was made and there was no further incident.

Sick student - 12:28 p.m.
Report of a sick student at Moyer Hall. Students was transported to Student Health Services by Campus Safety Officer.

Welfare check - 10:07 p.m.
Report to locate student at Prosser Annex. Contact was made, Student Health Services was notified and there was no further incident.

Fire safety violation - 11:14 p.m.
Report of fire safety violation from a student using a vape pen in East Hall. Individuals identified and spoken to, no further incident.

Wednesday, January 30
Fire alarm - 9:54 a.m.
Report of fire alarm at Martin Luther from steam from shower. System was silenced and reset.

Disabled vehicle - 9:00 p.m.
Report to jump start vehicle at Martin Luther. Campus safety officer could not start the vehicle.

Thursday, January 31
Fire alarm- 1:59 a.m.
Report of fire alarm at Walz Hall caused by burnt food. System was silenced and reset.

Injured student - 9:45 a.m.
Report of injured student at Ettinger Hall. Muhlenberg EMS responded, student was transported to Health Services.

Graffiti - 11:54 a.m.
Report of graffiti found at Walz Hall. Plant Operations notified to remove it.

Friday, February 1
No incidents reported.

Saturday, February 2
Found property - 1:28 a.m.
Report of found money in Seegers, money placed in lost and found locker.

Fire alarm - 1:52 a.m.
Report of fire alarm in East Hall. Upon arrival no cause could be found. System was silenced and reset.

Sick student - 4:21 p.m.
Report of sick student at Martin Luther Hall. Student Health Services notified, no further incident.

Disabled vehicle - 7:00 p.m.
Report to jump start vehicle at an off-campus location, campus safety officer successfully started vehicle.

Suspicious Person - 11:39 p.m.
In Egner Memorial Chapel, there was a report of a suspicious person. The area was checked, and the individual could not be located.

GENERAL'S
CARVERY
LOOK FOR OUR CARVING TABLE OUTSIDE OF THE GENERAL'S QUARTERS:
FEBRUARY 20TH PULLED PORK
MARCH 14TH SMOKED CORNED BEEF
APRIL 17TH SMOKED TURKEY
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Muhlenberg Academic Review showcases scholarly student work outside of the classroom

By Sydney Coplin
News Editor

At the end of the 2017 spring semester, a group of officers from the Muhlenberg chapter of Sigma Tau Delta English Honors Society came up with the idea for an interdisciplinary academic journal made up of student submitted work. With the groundwork set, the project, known as Muhlenberg Academic Review (MAR), was launched for the 2017-2018 school year.

"We publish exceptional scholarly work from students across all disciplines on campus," says Blake Chernin '19, co-editor-in-chief of MAR. "All student submissions are read anonymously by multiple contributing editors from across the curriculum."

The MAR logo is equally important to the foundation of the group. According to their website, the logo is an illustration of Gamma Iota, the specific Sigma Tau Delta chapter that Muhlenberg belongs to. Having the organization embedded into the logo connects the founders to the project, who are deeply passionate about the birth and growth of the publication.

"I feel very lucky to have this opportunity to work for MAR, because it means that I get to engage meaningfully with smart and well-written papers in all disciplines," explains Lizzie Pfeiffer '19, also co-editor-in-chief of MAR. "I get to read within discourses that I may not be studying on my own, so I get to learn about all sorts of fascinating new subjects and ideas."

There will be two deadlines for student submissions to MAR this semester. The first deadline for works under 5,000 words is this Friday, Feb. 8 at 11:59 p.m. The first round of submissions will be for the printed version of the magazine.

Students who are interested in contributing by this Friday's deadline can send in their work in a word document to muhlenbergacademicreview@muhlenberg.edu.

Later in the semester, MAR will be accepting submissions of over 5,000 words for the online version. Pfeiffer says that the team is working on finalizing their website, where the first edition, as well as this upcoming edition, will be digitally published.

"I think students should be encouraged to submit because we really value a wide variety and diversity in perspective, author, discipline and analysis," says Pfeiffer. "No one should feel like they're not going to be accepted because of their specific discourse. This is why MAR was created: to show our student base all of the impressive work we're doing in our classes and with our liberal arts education."

Pfeiffer also notes that the MAR executive board is made up predominantly of writing tutors, who see the value in writing and creativity, and will be supportive of those who submit.

"Having an on-campus publication is an excellent resume builder, but more than that, students get an opportunity to share work that is normally only seen by themselves and their professors but which deserves to be shared and read more widely," says Chernin. "Muhlenberg students do exceptional work — it ought to be shared."

The concept of an anthology of student work is familiar to the Muhlenberg community, with publications such as Muses, an art and literary magazine, already in existence. However, what makes MAR different, Chernin explains, is its academic rather than traditionally creative content.

"MAR to me means a real distinction from some of the other platforms on campus that are specialised for creative writing, like Muses for example," adds Pfeiffer. "I love creative writing but I also really cherish and try to promote the creativity and enlightened thinking that goes into a spectacular analytical essay."

Chernin recognizes that MAR has definitely evolved within the year that it has existed, pointing out a specific improvement in the organization of the group's agenda. Nonetheless, Chernin ensures that there is still a commitment and dedication to their original mission.

According to the MAR mission statement: "MAR embodies the liberal arts' aspiration, and like the ocean, to which its name also alludes, MAR's purpose is to turn the tide towards an overall more engaged and open-minded academic student body."

"My goals for the future of MAR are just to keep getting the word out and get more students to submit their work" says Pfeiffer. "We're still just a 'start-up' so to speak, so we're small, but I know all of us on the board are super passionate about our work, and we're eager to celebrate the amazing talent and work ethic of our students."

MAR SUBMISSIONS
Photo Courtesy of Julia Baker

Blake Chernin '19 (left) and Lizzie Pfeiffer '19 (right) are the proud Co-Editors in Chief of the Muhlenberg Academic Review.

Villanova law school partnership joins group of cooperative programs available to students

By Sydney Coplin
News Editor

Muhlenberg recently announced a partnership with the Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law, a 3+3 program offering eligible students the ability to go through an accelerated pre-law track for the first three years at Muhlenberg, and then switch to Villanova in their senior year for another three years.

This partnership joins an extensive list of cooperative programs already existing at Muhlenberg.

"We have been working for the past two to three years to develop new partnerships with professional schools," says Provost Kathleen Harring. "We have developed a partnership with Boston University for medical school and Public Health and a program in the business school. We have Public Health with Penn State and American University with their business/finance Masters."

Some other cooperative programs include partnerships with Lehigh University for a Masters in Management, and an engineering dual-degree program with Columbia University.

Among all of the cooperative programs that are offered at Muhlenberg, what makes the Villanova program unique and beneficial is its small size, Harring explains.

"You want to have those kinds of relationships with faculty, administrators and your fellow students," adds Jack Gambino, a professor of political science. "Villanova allows that kind of connection."

In addition to fostering connections within the Villanova community, students attending law school at Villanova will still be close to Muhlenberg, since it is located only about an hour away, so connections can be maintained here as well.

"A lot of people want to practice law in areas that are close to home,"says Gambino. "Villanova is an attractive choice because it is still close to home. It has a network in the area. Students will get a quality education, but they will also get the connections that come with good law schools. With the network that those law schools have with attorneys in the area, students can have those opportunities for internships and externships."

While there are many benefits that come with this partnership, Gambino does emphasize that due to the extensive requirements that have to be completed, it may not be for everyone.

"For students interested in applying their junior year, they have to fulfill all of their GARs and fulfill all major requirements. It is going to take very careful advising," explains Gambino. "It is going to be for students who are capable of planning their education, and looking to move into legal education more quickly."

In addition to fulfilling Muhlenberg's requirements, students must maintain specific standards that Villanova requires as well, such as meeting a 3.60 GPA requirement and particular LSAT scores.

Students must also complete their LSATS by January of their junior year. Should they choose to take a prep course, they will need to take it the summer after thier sophomore year or the fall of thier junior yearaccording to Gambino.

Due to the extensive requirements and planning required to be eligible for the program, it is going to be geared more towards the incoming class of 2023 interested in pre-law.

"We advise students to be successful, to be well-rounded students, that fit that kind of Muhlenberg mission," says Gambino. "When we send a Muhlenberg student, they know they are getting a quality student."

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from **Constituencies** page 1

about the current student body's communications with SGA, she expressed confidence that the new changes can continue to improve involvement in the organization's proceedings and decision-making.

"Overall, in the future, we are hoping the students are engaging with SGA more," says Makely. "In a perfect world, I would have loved to take this proposal further and make it so that students get to vote for which representative represents each specific constituency. However, right now the student population is just not invested enough in our weekly meetings or traditional elections. Unfortunately, I graduate in May and will not be around to see this, but I am confident we are taking the right steps to get there."

The benefits of the new 'constituencies' can already be seen in the forging of more meaningful connections between students, their SGA representatives and college administrators.

"Ideally, we are hoping our representatives will form more personal relationships with these groups and SGA will become more approachable and greater utilized on campus," says Makely.

Front page photo :
Cole Geissler / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Helping students thrive with the CARE Team

By Laura Schwarz
Asst. News Editor

Photo Courtesy of Pexels.com

Muhlenberg's CARE Team describes itself as "a multi-disciplinary, collaborative effort to identify students who are facing significant personal struggles, in distress, or are identified as students of concern who may benefit from additional support or resources."

For about a year and a half, this new program has followed through on its mission, assisting 233 students last year and 227 so far this school year, according to Allison Gulati, Vice President of Student Affairs & Dean of Students. CARE Teams similar to the one at Muhlenberg can be found on college campuses across the country, and have grown to cater to a wide variety of student needs. Every member of the team has undergone about 45 hours of additional training on top of their general professional requirements.

"We work with students around all different types of concerns," says Gulati. "It could be health related, mental health related, it could be related to academic distress, family distress, crises at home that occur, deaths of close family or friends. Financial hardship is a big piece of it or anything else that might be impacting their overall emotional well-being or social experience at the college. Sometimes we get students who are just really lonely or homesick...so it really runs the gamut in terms of support."

Any student or faculty member can make a report to the team if they are concerned about a student's well-being. While reports can be made in person or over the phone, Gulati explains that the majority of reports come from the team's online form.

"Sometimes people will still call to consult with a hypothetical situation to see if it's one that they should share with us or not," says Gulati. "That way we can provide them with some advice before they make a decision about how they want to share the information. But if I had to guess, I'm going to say that 75 percent or more of the reports come in from the online form."

Even though reports can be made anonymously, Gulati explains that it could be beneficial to let a student know that the person reporting them is someone they can trust.

"Usually what we'll do is reach back out to the reporter to ask them if they've told the student that they were referring them, and if not do they want to share that with the student or do they want us to? Do they need to remain anonymous for some reason or not? One of the things we always encourage after [someone] report[s] is that when students are in distress related to their health or mental health, when someone that they trust is the one helping refer them, telling that person really helps," says Gulati.

In addition to the multitude of health-related resources they provide, the CARE Team also assists students financially.

"It really is on a case by case basis depending upon what the student's situation might be," explains Gulati. "We would meet individually with the student to really assess what's going on. We have access to provide meal swipes if necessary. We could also provide short term funding. Let's say they need an emergency bus ticket home, or a parent lost a job. Then we do a couple things: we take care of whatever the emergency situation might be, but then Michelle [Paules, Coordinator of Student Support Services] and my office would work with them and meet with them in Financial Aid to figure out what we might need to do to make adjustments related to whatever imminent situation has come up."

Working alongside the Health Center and the Office of Disability Services, the CARE Team aids students with both urgent and less urgent needs. Just as they can provide emergency care and transportation to students with an immediate condition like an eating disorder, they also help students who may even be struggling with the stress of taking care of another student in distress.

Another significant part of the CARE Team's work is consulting with students about taking a medical leave of absence, and then focusing on the transition back to campus if they do take a break.

"[What] we have to consult on sometimes is maybe a student is in between whether or not they should take a medical leave, or if they should try and stay. We try and help them put a plan of success together," says Gulati. "On the flip side, about 30 students a semester take a medical leave and when they're coming back, that's really where they want support. So, when they're coming back, after they've been away related to health, mental health or family crisis, they are figuring out 'what courses should I take now?' 'Do I want to move back into the residence halls or would another environment be better for me?' 'Do I have new disability accommodations that I didn't have before?' 'What type of course load should I try and do?' What type of counseling support am I going to need?'"

To help the transition go smoothly, the CARE Team will then schedule a meeting with Tim Silvestri Director of Counseling Services, Pamela Moschini, Director, Office of Disability Services and Bruce Anderson, Dean of Academic Life, to create a "plan of success" for a student that helps to answer the questions Gulati addresses. Students may, but are not required to, involve their parents in this plan.

Because this program is still fairly new to Muhlenberg Gulati and other members of the CARE Team are working to let all students know about the assistance they provide. Along with informational programs for faculty members, first year students are told about the CARE Team during orientation and the Foundations of Student Success course. Additionally, all RAs are trained to help students get involved with the team if necessary.

"[Muhlenberg] has always tried to work together to manage concerns related to students," says Gulati, "but working in this cohesive way and helping students holistically" has been the result of the new CARE Team's efforts in ensuring success for all students.

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THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

"Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud."

- Maya Angelou

Cole Geissler / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Left: Professional dancers performed a lion dance in Seegers Union Thursday night.

A joyful end to a bright new beginning

Muhlenberg students and staff celebrate the year of the boar

Right: Robin Chodak '22, Ha Anh Truong '19, Shuxiu Huang '19, and Jessica Bensimhon '22 flash smiles during Tuesday's dumpling making.

By Chane Kaba
Contributing Writer

For the past five years, Muhlenberg has hosted a Lunar New Year festival. The festival was created in hopes that the students that celebrated Lunar New Year would be able to have a safe space where they could celebrate their own culture despite being away from home. Muhlenberg also wanted other students to be aware and develop an interest of the different cultures around them.

The purpose of Lunar New Year is to bring positive energy and luck as we welcome the New Year.

This Lunar New Year celebrated the year of the boar, starting off with the Cultural Panel. Throughout the week, there were many events happening throughout campus to celebrate the incoming Lunar New Year. Each event was created in hopes that Muhlenberg community would become more aware of the meaning of the Lunar New Year.

While the campus celebrated the Lunar New Year last week, Feb. 4 is the actual Lunar New Year's date. The members of the Asian Student Association (ASA) decided to end the holiday with a talkback to discuss the events that took place across campus, led by ASA president Christopher Chin '19 and ASA vice president Anh Truong '19.

Throughout the talkback, we were able to hear how some of the events made an impact on them personally and on Muhlenberg as a whole. The talkback allowed those who came to see how Lunar New Year is observed in their home life compared to Muhlenberg. There are various Lunar New Year traditions and narratives that can be considered in celebration time.

There is not an exact way for people to celebrate the Lunar New Year. Depending on your culture, the Lunar New Year would be celebrated differently when compared to the people who come from different regions. Also, Muhlenberg should keep in mind that the events that go on at campus are not a direct portrayal of the Lunar New Year and the events are used in a way so that the campus could be more aware. "The purpose of Lunar New Year is to bring positive energy and luck as we welcome the New Year," explained Chin.

Overall, the events of Lunar New Year were considered to be a success due to the popular turnout at most events. On Jan. 29, there was dumpling folding, where students, faculty, and staff were invited to make dumplings alongside the chef of Wood Dining Commons. Different members of the Muhlenberg community came out in support of the Lunar New Year. It was a great time to either hang out with friends while also learning about the culture. Events like dumpling folding, International Tea, Lunar New Year Dinner, and stuff-a-plush were inspiring events that brought forth the spirit of Lunar New Year.

Lunar New Year is about being with your family and friends and just celebrating the New Year. In some traditions, people would receive money from their loved ones so that they could have good luck in the new year. The money would come in small red envelopes. During the International Tea event, people received red envelopes with information about the Lunar New Year and a gift card to upgrade your order from Java Joe's.

The whole point of having Lunar New Year on campus is to open a conversation between those who celebrated ... and those who have little to no knowledge of Lunar New Year.

The whole point of having Lunar New Year on campus is to open a conversation between those who celebrated Lunar New Year and those who have little to no knowledge of Lunar New Year. The Asian Student Association successfully introduced the Lunar New Year to campus life; informing students of this new year celebration as well as its importance to the people around them.

The members of the Asian Student Association talked about the events that they could have done and events that Muhlenberg might see next year. As the talks of how the events were and what might be seen next year came to a close, it was decided that the best way to end the celebrations was with sparklers. A joyful end to a grand holiday.

Collegium Musicum performs *Night's Black Bird*

By Caya Greenspan-Layman
Contributing Writer

On Saturday evening, Feb. 2, people arrived at Egner Memorial Chapel to watch Night's Black Bird perform. They sat in the pews, but members of the ensemble invited them to sit behind the altar where the ensemble was set up. "It sounds better back here," they said as more people pooled in from the pews. The result was an intimate concert in a beautiful performance space. The sounds of bass viola da gamba, Baroque guitar, lute and voice echoed slightly in the Chapel. The members of Night's Black Bird sat less than 20 feet in front of their rapt audience for a performance of English, Italian, and Spanish late Renaissance and Baroque music.

Sasson Lonner / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Ted Conner, Katherine Kaiser, and Elizabeth Conner perform as the Night's Black Bird ensemble

The ensemble is comprised of Ted Conner, Katherine Kaiser, and Elizabeth Conner. Ted Conner and Kaiser are both part of the music faculty at Muhlenberg. Ted Conner directs the *Collegium Musicum*, an ensemble which also performs Renaissance works and in which he, Elizabeth Conner, and Muhlenberg students perform regularly.

Night's Black Bird was formed roughly two years ago when Ted Conner and Kaiser discovered mutual interests in early music. "[Ted Conner said] 'Hey, why don't you come over and we'll . . . play some tunes,'" Kaiser recalls. Ted Conner played lute and Baroque guitar, and Kaiser sang. Elizabeth Conner joined on bass viola da gamba. Their repertoire includes a variety of early music, ranging from Italian cantatas to Spanish guitar music. They give local performances and have performed in Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York. They have also given master classes at SUNY Potsdam and Eastern Connecticut State University.

Saturday's performance, titled, "Love's Harvest," featured works by several Renaissance and Baroque composers. These composers included poet Thomas Campion; the founder of opera, Giulio Caccini; and José Marín, a priest who was arrested twice for murder and escaped both times. The ensemble also performed music by three female composers from Italy: Francesca Caccini, Barbara Strozzi, and Lucretia Orsina Vizana. Vizana was a cloistered nun in Bologna, in which she strove to work around strict rules about what women could compose: "She [wrote cantatas] in the style of Monteverdi. It's very florid and very interesting," Kaiser said.

These are not the only female composers from this era. "Women were composing," Kaiser stated. "They just didn't always make it to the history books." The year 2020 is the 100-year anniversary of women's suffrage, and Night's Black Bird plans to honor that.

"We've been gradually adding women's music to the repertoire that we're doing in hopes that next fall we'll . . . do [a performance] that is primarily women composers," Ted Conner said.

Renaissance and Baroque music falls under the umbrella of classical music, but early music has something unique to offer. "This is as close in the classical realm [as one can get] to the jazz combo feel," Ted Conner states. "[The music] is different every time because of the embellishments that we're doing." Early music required skills in improvisation and ornamentation. Written music was simple because of attempts to conserve ink and paper, so musicians could embellish the music with a variety of ornaments. Ornaments are flourishes that often come in the form of non-essential notes or stylistic choices. "There was an expectation that you would do that; that was just a part of the performance practice, which is part of what makes this music so exciting," said Kaiser.

The process is different for different instruments. Ted Conner explains that on bass viola da gamba, "Liz is playing more basslines and there are written embellishments in the music . . . [with] some improvisations. When I'm playing Baroque guitar, I'm realizing a continuo." Realizing a continuo involves a written bassline and improvising chord voicings above it.

Embellishments can show off the musicians' skills: following a seventeenth century manuscript, Kaiser sang "Shall I Come Sweet Love" with extensive ornamentation which showed off her vocal control. Embellishments are not necessarily flashy, however: an ornament can be as simple as an extra note or a little vibrato. At Saturday's performance, such ornaments blended into the music and contributed to the atmosphere.

The members of Night's Black Bird performed simply, with minimal movements. They focused on showcasing the music with thoughtful attention to style and dynamics. The simplicity and intimacy of the performance allowed the music to speak for itself. The audience was attentive and silent during the songs and followed each with enthusiastic applause.

"It is lovely music," Kaiser states. "There are some wonderful moments."

I Now Pronounce:

By Abigail Sherman
Staff Writer

Last Sunday, Muhlenberg Theatre & Dance presented a reading of *I Now Pronounce*, written by Tasha Gordon-Solomon and directed by Benjamin Shaw '07. This play explores the classic wedding scene, with archetypes such as the drunk bridesmaid, the anti-love groomsmen, and the bridezilla. The play starts, however, with a twist sending the wedding into spiralling antics: the officiating rabbi dies mid-ceremony. The reading featured Muhlenberg students Alex Benary '19, Lucie Hopkins '21, Julian Mone '19, Sarah Jae Leiber '19, Brianna Price '22, Rylee Singer '22, Jonathan Slovak '22, Gwen Wilkie '20, and Emily Searles '19 as stage manager.

Many of the actors played characters with more diverse age ranges than just college students. Hopkins, Benary, and Price all played flower girls along with their adult characters, and Wilkie played both the 90-year old rabbi and his wife. The flower girls brought a sense of childhood wonder to the show, even though they were being played by 'Berg students. Their reactions to the crazy events provided a comical and light reaction to the wedding, something that anyone in the audience could enjoy. Then the members of the wedding party brought more adult situations to the story, like the classic wedding hook-up and a stammered, drunken speech. The storyline was tightly written, with each scene flowing into the other in a way that connected the present events and backgrounds of each character. Each actor brought the script to life, providing animated, entertaining characters, even though the reading contained no props, costumes, or staging.

> **"Someone once told me that there's an easy way to become a good writer and that's reading a lot."**

In discussion with Shaw about his return to Muhlenberg, he said, "It's lovely, it feels a bit like a homecoming. It's nice to come back and bring a part of myself professionally and share that with campus and theatre students." Shaw was last on campus directing *Seussical* for Summer Musical Theatre in 2013.

Shaw describes the positives of students working with those currently in the theatre industry, saying, "It keeps your perspective broad and expansive, on the one hand, so much of what our professional experience is the result of relationships. Being able to plant relationships and give students experiences that replicate what's happening in the real world, that's important to me."

Students worked with Shaw for the first time the morning before the performance and had nothing but praise for the actors. "They were great! They were really quick on their feet, very funny, enthusiastic and very game. Being game is the most important quality."

Meeting with the playwright after the production, Gordon-Solomon gave some insight to the inspiration behind the script. She said, "There's a stage in your life where you go to a lot of weddings. And I'm always interested in taking traditional tropes or plays or stories we hear specifically about women, and turn them on their head a bit from a feminist comedic angle." She also acknowledged Muhlenberg's students taking on the various characters, explaining that, "Every time you hear new actors read it they bring something different to it, which I think is really exciting, because when you are writing a play you're writing a template, and actors bring themselves to it. It's always cool to hear the new choices. I think the wonderful thing about theatre is how transformative it can be. It's really exciting to see a college student transform into someone in their eighties."

> **"It's nice to come back and bring a part of myself professionally and share that with campus and theatre students."**

Gordon-Solomon also had advice for aspiring playwrights at Muhlenberg as well.

"Read a lot of plays." She states, "Someone once told me that there's an easy way to become a good writer and that's reading a lot. Keep writing, the more you do it, the better you get. This play had a lot of drafts, the first draft is never perfect. What you do at Muhlenberg is you get to work in different areas in theatre, try acting, try design, direct. Even if you know you want to be a writer, you become a better writer if you understand an actors process, you become a better writer if you can think about the design in the world of a play, it's absorbing as much theatre as you can. Learn about the world, take other classes you want to have something to write about. See plays, read plays, write plays, write a lot of drafts, and live in the world."

Artist of the Week: Hannah Polaski

By Alana Noehrenberg
Staff Writer

Hannah Polaski ‘21 discovered her passion for singing classical music three years ago — and she has not looked back since. “I’ve been singing for most of my life,” Polaski explains, “but I only really started training about three years ago.” Her love of music, which Polaski says “has always been a big part of my life,” has defined her college and career goals: Polaski wants to become a professional classical singer after college. To achieve her dream, Polaski is ensuring that her classes and extracurricular activities at Muhlenberg line up with her career goals; she has already declared a music major with a concentration in voice. “I’ve known for a while that I wanted to do something artistic in college, and music is just so much a part of who I am that I wanted to train it and heighten it,” Polaski said.

When asked to name a singer whom she tries to emulate or to whom she simply enjoys listening, Polaski said, “I’m still very new to the world of classical singing, so I don’t really know any big names.” She paused, then continued, “I mean, I love Freddie Mercury, for his big personality as well as his big voice ... and all the names of all singers have just flown out my head,” Polaski trailed off, then excitedly exclaimed, “Kathleen Battle, Kathleen Battle! She’s, ah, I love her.”

“I want to be a singer,” she continued. “I’d really like to perform opera on a stage, but also being a part of a chorus is a thing that a lot of professional singers do, and that is something I find fulfilling, so I’d like to do that as well. I also play quite a lot of instruments.” Polaski has been playing flute since third grade, and currently plays bass flute, which she says, “has a lovely, deep sound.” In addition to being in two instrumental ensembles, Polaski sings in the chamber and college choirs, as well as collegium musicum, where members play “early music, like Renaissance music. I play baroque flute there and I really enjoy it,” Polaski said, trailing off slightly before acknowledging with a laugh: “I play a lot of flute.”

Julia Real / The Muhlenberg Weekly

When asked which classes she has taken at Muhlenberg that she has enjoyed the most, Polaski replied, “I really liked Ted Connor’s Music History II. It was very interesting and enjoyable, because it was classical moving into modern music. It was a lot of fun, and for our final project I poured 97 rubber balls into a piano. We were supposed to compose a piece in the style of John Cage and I decided that a part of mine would be pouring a bunch of rubber balls into a piano. It was a lot of fun.”

In response to being asked to share her favorite piece of music to perform, Polaski named Eric Whitacre’s setting of the children’s book Goodnight Moon, as “it’s a really nostalgic book for me, and I love how Eric Whitacre uses the voice, especially the soprano voice, and I really love the setting of it. It’s a lot of fun to sing, as well as emotional to sing, and I just like it a lot.”

Julia Real / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Hannah Polaski ‘21, a vocal performance concentration, plays her bass flute in various ensembles across the campus.

Although her primary focus is on her vocal career, Polaski also has a love of the theater. “I only really discovered that I wanted to sing classically about three years ago when I started to train,” she said. “I thought I wanted to do musical theater when I began applying to colleges; but then I started getting voice lessons for my auditions and we tried a piece of Mozart and I kind of fell in love with it. My voice fit it well.”

Polaski plans to declare a theater design major in addition to her music major. “A big part of why I chose Muhlenberg and not a conservatory was to be able to do multiple things,” she said. “I consider myself to also be a theater artist as well. I really enjoyed Curtis Dretsch’s Stage Lighting I class because that was my first real foray into in-depth tech.”

Connecting our faith

By Arielle Moss
Staff Writer

“My faith tells me that no matter what terrible things are happening in the world, I know that it’s all part of a greater plan and that better days will soon come,” said Marc Szechter ‘22, who participated in Have a Little Faith on Jan. 31.

Have a Little Faith was a dinner and interfaith discussion that was open to the entire campus regardless of gender identity, sexuality, religion or faith.

This was the first interfaith event, in years, of this type to happen at Muhlenberg. Last semester, Chloe Goldstein, Hillel Programs and Engagement associate, Pastor Kristen Glass-Perez, College Chaplain, and several student leaders hosted a larger interfaith program, which was centered around spirituality; the idea for last week’s interfaith discussion was inspired by that event. The purpose of the event was to begin to forge some connections of faith.

“Personally, my traditions and spirituality as a conservative Jew are really important,” said student leader and Hillel Interfaith Chair Liora Finkel ‘22. Finkel was raised as an observant Jew, and she reframed the traditions she grew up with around the lines of “what my parents have taught me” to move along the lines of “this is how I can be mindful of both my day-to-day life and to time passing.” It is more difficult for her to explain why these traditions are important to her as a whole, but she does know that her life would be different if her Judaism weren’t so important to her.

“We live in an extremely secular world, with crazy social lives, schoolwork and technology. Thinking from a Jewish perspective it is really hard to be a ritually observant college student, and/ or a student of faith. However, especially in my experience, I make it work. So in short, faith and religion can integrate well,” said Finkel.

Participant Jenna Levin ‘21 said that her favorite topic was learning about people’s first memorable religious experience. She finds it interesting to see what people remember from their religious childhood experiences.

“From this experience I learned that there are so many ways to be involved in religious life in different communities. Faith/religion is important to me because I’ve grown up my whole life being involved with Jewish communities such as day school, camp, etc,” said Levin.

For some people, religion is something that influences their everyday lives. As a Shabbat-observant Jew, Szechter has to plan his weekends around the laws of Shabbat.

“I find Shabbat on campus to be beautiful. I look forward each week to going to Hillel on Friday nights and Chabad on Saturday afternoons. Additionally, I have found a home locally Congregation Sons of Israel, where I and many other Muhlenberg students go on Saturday mornings,” said Szechter. He said that the members of the congregation are excited by the presence of Muhlenberg students, and they frequently invite them to their homes for Shabbat meals.

“Given all of these special opportunities that the Muhlenberg and the greater Allentown Jewish communities offer, I never feel bad about missing whatever parties are happening on Friday nights on campus,” said Szechter.

There are plans to have monthly dinner interfaith discussions, like this one, throughout the semester. Including a plan for an interfaith retreat, as well as other programs planned throughout the spring.

“I think that our religions are too focused on ritual and law rather than faith, and we need to have more discussions about the nature of the Divine,” said Szechter.

Muhlenberg also hosts other events that center around interfaith. Muhlenberg’s Institute for Jewish-Christian understanding hosts events such as the semesterly Youth and Prejudice Conference for students from local schools, coordinated by Marcie Lightwood, which promotes understanding of people who may come from a different background than you. This year’s conference is on April 9 and April 10 and students who are Holocaust survivors can volunteer to share their family’s story.

Interfaith discussions give students the opportunity to connect with other people from different backgrounds.

“I learned that Jews and Christians have similar questions about their faith, and we can work together to inspire each other to find faith,” said Szechter.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

Systemic racism in medicine and more

Editorial

Since the publication of 1985's Heckler Report — the first detailed documentation of racial bias in healthcare — numerous studies have come to the same conclusion: healthcare professionals continue to misperceive black people as less sensitive to pain than white people, regardless of their education level, socioeconomic status, or health history. With already over 2,300 alumni in medical and healthcare professions, as a predominately white institution, it's important for our pre-health and pre-medical students and faculty to educate themselves on the history of the exploitation of black bodies in the name of science. It is undoubtedly a matter of life and death.

The faulty idea that black people feel less pain than white people originated during the age of slavery, the most notorious example of which was in the practice of surgeon J. Marion Sims. Revered as the "father of modern gynecology," Sims has monuments dedicated to his achievements in improving women's healthcare across the world. Sim's medical "achievements" are the product of countless tortuous experiments conducted on enslaved black women intentionally unanesthetized. We've lost many of their names to time, but three that we do know are Anarcha, Lucy, and Betsey. Instead of championing Sims as a pioneer of gynecological science, we need to recognize that, as Sara Spettel and Mark Donald White aptly concluded, "he is a prime example of progress in the medical profession made at the expense of a vulnerable population."

Medical experimentation and malpractice continued well into the 1900s. All it takes is a simple Google search of "Tuskegee experiment" or "eugenics in America" to discover the rabbit hole of dark, sickening human rights violations that plague our history. While medical racism may not seem as overt to white people as it was in previous centuries, many black Americans — women, in particular — have taken to sharing their experiences of mistreatment through social media, including Serena Williams, worldwide tennis superstar. After giving birth to her daughter in 2018, Williams realized that she was experiencing symptoms of pulmonary embolisms, a health issue she had struggled with prior to pregnancy. She described to Vogue how she had to beg the doctors and nurses to listen to her pleas for a CT scan. By the time they agreed to perform the scan, she already had "several small blood clots" in her lungs.

Complications during birth are far from rare, and an increasing number of women are suffering from health scares that are largely preventable. The maternal mortality rate for white women in Pennsylvania is 13.9 percent. For black women, that number skyrockets to 33.9 percent. While Pennsylvania's statistic for black women is lower than the national average (a staggering 47.2 percent mortality rate for black women), the disparity between races is jaw-dropping, and not enough people — medical professionals and the general public — are aware of it. Williams came dangerously close to becoming another statistic; her wealth and fame didn't protect her. In fact, ProPublica revealed that black mothers with college degrees "fare worse than women of all other races who never finished high school."

So if it's not education, wealth, or health, what is killing black mothers? The answer is clear: systemic racism.

Just this past week, newsreels were dominated by pictures of Virginia Governor Ralph Northam in blackface, of which he denied. Many news outlets are overlooking a glaring factor: the picture in question was featured in the 1984 Eastern Virginia Medical School yearbook. How many of those young students parading in blackface and KKK robes are medical professionals still operating today? Racists don't fit into one stereotype; they are our doctors, our lawyers, our policemen. There is no miracle cure to weed out the racists in our institutions because these people are often keystones of these institutions, and they are operating them exactly the way they were designed. Without radical, comprehensive healthcare reform, there is no way we can dismantle the systemic racism of the healthcare industry. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't try. And change starts with believing black women.

Math is the original punk

By Will Wamser
Op/Ed Editor

Look here, I know what's going on in that skull of a head you've got there, you're thinking "But Mr. W, I never got this math stuff, it's nothing but uncool. Math can't help me with my banjo lessons, math can't help me rock the vote, math can't help me with taxes. The way I see it, math's got all the problems, so why is it that kids like me gotta solve them?" Well, that's brave of you to think and you aren't wrong. I'm not gonna sit here and pretend that math is helpful in any way, I know you kids are too smart for that. But you know what you aren't too smart for? Me convincing you that math is the original punk rocker!

I can already hear you all scoffing and scuffing and guffawing at me, but give me time. Let's start with the most obvious piece of evidence. We can all agree that punk rockers rule, correct? They all have holes in their pants and sick Mohawks, but let's think about that. What is a hole in a jean, but a vector field of a real-valued 2 ϖ periodic function? And what about those Mohawks? That barber probably knows a thing or two about conic sections. I'm certain I've convinced all of you, but don't worry because I'm just getting started.

Let's think about some famous punk rockers, you've got The Sex Pistols, The Ramones and... wait a second. The Ramones? Isn't that basically the RamONEs? That doesn't seem like a coincidence. But what do I know? I only saw the RamONEs live. The crowd was huge, I felt like a single element in a set, not a bad feeling if you ask me. Their music was so loud, it was hitting everyone's ears. Think about it like this, Joey's instruments were functions which created a surjection from the set of band members to the set of the crowd. If that's not cool, I don't know what is.

We've been talking a lot about the punk aspects of math, but math's got a lot of rocking in it as well. All the best punk rockers love the musical scale (ABCDEFG), but that's just a set of all letters under modular 7. Let's pretend that this set is a group under the operation of two notes being played together, even though it doesn't have comutivity or an identity or inverses, but ignore that for the sake of argument. In that case you would get a homomorphism to the set of all chords (something else punk rockers famously love). Let me know if you want to see the proof of this, because I can do it.

Punk rockers don't listen to anyone (unless it's another punk rock band). They are famous for playing and living by their own rules. This actually reminds me of a friend of mine, Muhammad ibn Musa al-Khwarizmi. Back in his day, people didn't care about numbers, numbers were outcasts. It was only al-Khwarizmi who was punk rock enough to listen to the numbers. He looked in the face of numbers and told them exactly what they were, putting a mirror up to numbers just like punk rock putting a mirror up to the suits of the world.

Before anyone sends me anything, I know punk rock is all about anarchy and chaos and math is just a bunch of rules. That's a fair point, but totally wrong. Math is just as much about anarchy as The Clash is. I mean think about the set of all integers and the set of all odd numbers, both of them are infinite, but all of the odd numbers are in the set of integers. But defying all odds, in the face of everyone, they've got the same cardinality baby. Chaos reigns supreme in the world of cardinality and infinity does what it wants at all times.

According to some people, it isn't the notes or the anarchy or even the RamONEs that make punk rockers punk rockers, they claim that punk rock can't be defined and that is what keeps math from being the original punk rocker. Punk rock can't be defined, huh? Try telling that to any number defined by zero. Mic drop.

I believe I've made my case, but I've left the most damning piece of evidence for the very end. I've only got one thing to say, Blink-182. That kind of says it all. If you want to rock out with your calculator and me, hit me up on Wolfram Alpha.

THE BEAT
WITH MATT BEAUNE

By Matt Beaune
Investigative Reporter

Hello loyal readers! Before winter break, I finally came up with a sick nickname for the best superhero on campus, The Irritator. For those of you hoping that I would write about all of the cool things The Irritator did over break, I'm sorry to say it but I have no such stories. My inside sources tell me the reason behind his month long hiatus is that he was too stupid to remember to pack his stupid super suit and it got locked in his stupid dorm room and he couldn't get in, no matter how hard he tried to pick the lock or bribe HRL. The Irritator is nothing without his suit.

But now he is back and making up for lost time with his biggest organized crime take-out yet as he paired up with an unlikely guest.

It all started when The Irritator was eating lunch in GQ last Monday afternoon. He had ordered six pancakes, essentially halting the grill line in the middle of the lunch rush. Once he cut into the not so short stack, someone wearing a trenchcoat and sunglasses sat next to him and passed him a note telling him to meet at sundown in the bell tower for an important assignment. Once the message was relayed, the mysterious figure vanished into thin air. At first, this proposal didn't interest The Irritator. He had gotten enough assignments lately in his two writing intensives, so he wasn't in the mood to write another 1-2 page reflection. This was until he realized that this wasn't a homework assignment, it was a *crime assignment*.

When he went to the belltower, he met someone who only identified themselves as "DG" who handed him a manilla envelope. After receiving the envelope, The Irritator asked "if you brought the envelope, who's bringing the updog?" "What's Updog?" DG asked, to which he replied "Not much dog, what's up with you?" To this, DG sighed and left, leaving The Irritator to open the envelope, where he found some pictures of penises drawn in the snow and a list of likely suspects. The Irritator was tasked to stop this sophomoric vandalism before the big snowstorm hit last Tuesday.

The Irritator got right to work trying to crack this case. He examined, in extreme detail, each of the photographs of the artwork in question, and was able to conclude that this was in fact a

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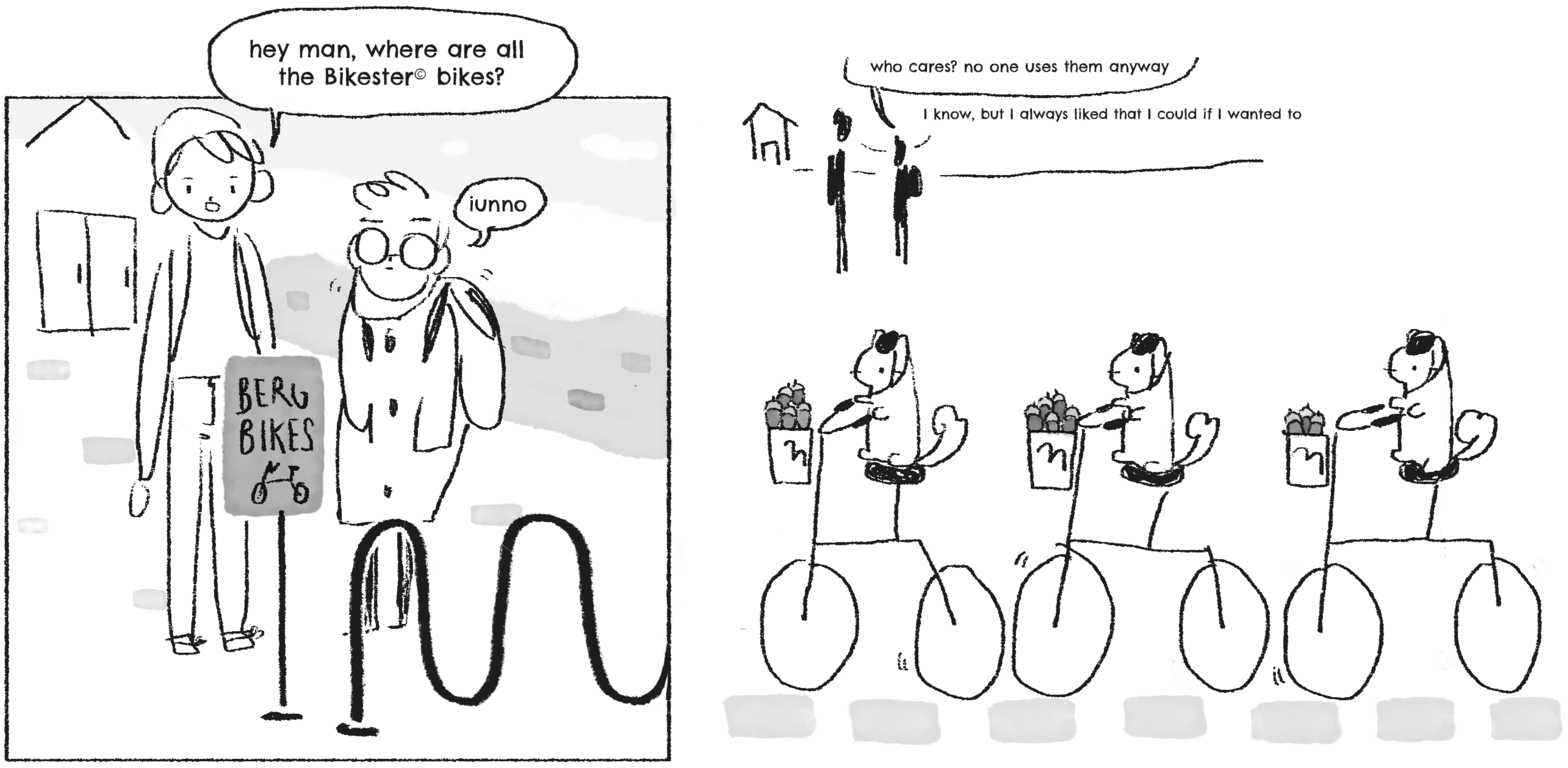

hey man, where are all the Bikester© bikes?
iunno
BERG BIKES
who cares? no one uses them anyway
I know, but I always liked that I could if I wanted to

the things they carried by jessica bensimhon

FROM **BEAUNE** PAGE 8

lone wolf acting alone and not some kind of vast conspiracy of several gifted artists working as a team. Once he was able to narrow that down, he started to look at this list of suspects that he was provided and developed what the experts call "a decent hunch." There was one name that really stuck out to him for no particular reason, so he decided to go all in and pay this guy, <NAME REDACTED>, a little visit.

<NAME REDACTED> was eating lunch with some of his buddies in the dining hall when The Irritator repelled from the ceiling, grabbed him, and brought him to The Irritator Cave for some pretty thorough interrogation. The Irritator asked if he etched the penises in the snow. <NAME REDACTED> said that he didn't. The Irritator asked again. <NAME REDACTED> still said no. This went on for about eighteen hours, until the suspect finally gave in. A Campus Police check of his dorm room after the interrogation turned up a chisel and a book entitled "How to Draw Penises in the Snow." It was like taking candy from a baby.

After the arrest was officially made and <NAME REDACTED> was sentenced to 25 years to life, DG reached out again to The Irritator and offered any favor, which he promptly used to ensure that, no matter how cold or icy it was, no school was to be cancelled last week so all of the students can continue to learn uninterruptedly.

Now that The Irritator has shown that he is willing to work with the administration and whoever DG is, will the public lose trust in him? Will he stray from his commitment to doing what is best for the campus as a whole and operate only as a corporate pawn? Only time can tell, but one thing is for sure: there's absolutely nothing that can stop the raw power and intellect of The Irritator.

Until next time, stay safe out there Muhlenberg.

Big news starts small: How student newspapers aid national reporting

By Chloe Gravereaux
Editor-in-Chief

Students at West Virginia University celebrated their snow day by amassing in concert-sized crowds on a steep hill just off campus, drinks in hand. One student cut through the crowd on a sled flying down off a ramp at the bottom of the hill. Another came down on skis, another on a bike, another a kayak. Joe Severino, the news editor of the WVU student newspaper, The Daily Athenaeum (The DA), recorded the chaos and posted the video of harmless fun on twitter.

Then the street was blocked. Students threw empty beer bottles. Someone started a fire. The police were called to break up the crowd. When the students didn't respond, they took drastic measures — blaring sound at the crowd, then firing pepper balls, and finally smoke bombs.

Suddenly it wasn't a drunken mass — it was a "riot," the Washington Post declared, that had to be dispersed with police violence.

The videos were shared by news outlets everywhere. CBS featured the footage from Twitter. The Washington Post published a story titled "How a drunken college snow day turned into a 'riot' that police broke up with smoke grenades" and interspersed quotes from police statements with student footage from Severino and The DA. While unable to get student quotes, the Post had student footage, and the online story provided a perspective otherwise unable to be recorded. Social media and student reporters helped provide a more complete picture of the scene. A full video can be found on The DA's twitter.

The DA provides yet another example of big news starting small — of locals catching something interesting and the story "going viral." Small-town papers spotlight a local event in the news, referencing things like yearbook photos, old headlines they previously reported, and the research becomes vital later. These facts are then picked up by national news sources and circulated, providing national reporters with overviews and original documents they wouldn't have access to otherwise.

In addition to providing students with reporting and journalistic experience, student newspapers provide resources for larger corporations to access, and on-the-ground reporting on what may become a national story in unexpected ways. Social media also offers faster, further distribution of resources that professionals can use. This mass communication causes students to reach for their phone cameras in life-threatening situations.

With the dwindling number of local newspapers, it is becoming more and more common to rely on "citizen journalism," often found through social media. National news needs resources provided by smaller, local news and on-the-ground footage. Civilians provide that. Students provide that. The credibility of a student newspaper and even informal journalistic training makes that perspective more valuable.

When Severino raised his smartphone to record students coughing, struggling to run over the snow from smoke that billowed up into the air, he probably didn't know that what he was capturing would be national news in a few hours. What he did know was that this was history happening in his college town, and he had to record it- it was his job as an editor for the DA to do so. What he did know was he was far from his original assignment to record a crowd of students sledding down a hill. But that's no surprise; after all, big news starts small.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

With Coach Jason Toedter now at the helm, tennis looks for a fresh start

By Brandon Kossin
Senior Staff Writer

Both of Muhlenberg's tennis teams underperformed last year, struggling to win many games during the season. The men's tennis team finished with an overall record of 4-14, and a less than stellar 2-7 record within the Centennial Conference. The women also struggled to be victorious, with an overall 0-12 record, and an 0-10 record in conference. Obviously, the Mules did not do as well as expected, and as a result decided to hire a new coach. Coach Jason Toedter is hoping to change the team's culture and bring the Mules tennis program back to its winning ways.

You can already tell that the players of both teams have a renewed sense of confidence with Coach Toedter leading the charge. "Coach Toedter has been tirelessly working towards getting our tennis team back to its full potential," said Meghan Olsen '19. "As a senior, I know that the tennis program has been let go of over these past four years, however, I think Coach Toedter is the perfect fit to encourage and motivate our team players to reach their goals and play our best. So far he has been a great addition to our team and is very adamant about helping us get back to where we need to be, which is very important to us."

Steven Shoemaker '19 also had high praise for his new coach. "It has been difficult for the men′s team to find success in the past four years, since we have had a four different head coaches in all of those seasons," said Shoemaker. "However, there was a different vibe in the atmosphere once Coach Toedter took the reins. His presence was made right away in our fall season when he walked into a room with a bunch of strangers and told us that it is time to put our team back on the Centennial Conference map. Having a coach who is passionate about winning and not just about going out there and giving it your best, will really go a long way for the men′s team this upcoming season."

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

After an underwhelming season in 2018, new coach Jason Toedter wants to change the dynamic of the team prioritizing class and unity.

Leading up to the season, Coach Toedter has been driving home a strong message to light a spark and motivate the team. "I think his main takeaway for all of the players is to stay confident and have fun out on the court," said Olsen. "He is doing his best to get us back in the swing of things and will continue to do so during our practice times by drilling us with basic skills and game strategies."

"Coach knows that we all have lives outside of tennis, but what he really tries to drive at is blocking everything out and coming ready to play when it is time for practice or a match," said Shoemaker. "You either want to be on the court or you don′t, so if you want to be a part of the team it is crucial that you are locked in and focused the second you pick up that racquet."

It really seems that Toedter has instilled a lot of confidence in his players, prioritizing their performance on the court, while also considering their personal lives. With any coach, it is key not only to better your players performance on the court, but to also develop personal relationships to better understand how to communicate best with each player.

With all of that being said, the players are confident that this season will be much different than those prior. Coach Toedter believes that the most impressive part about this team is its unity. "The best teams I have ever been a part of have been less a team and more a family. It is a tough ask of players to embrace the changes a new coach brings with them. The players have certainly taken to that task. They know it is important to me that we try to be the classiest team we can be and the most unified team we can be. In everything we do we want to act with class in victory and defeat. Everything we do must be as much for ourselves as it is for the man fighting on the court next to us. Those are the marks of great teams."

Sidelined: the road to recovery

For athletes, sports injuries can be devastating, but they can also open up new opportunities

By Jason Grant
Assistant Sports Editor

Student athletes often have some of the busiest schedules on college campuses. Between classes and practices, semesters practically fly by. Each student athlete obviously has a passion for their sport, or they would not spend the countless hours training for the season.

But, in just one misstep, an injury could sideline an athlete for an entire season, derailing what could have been a breakout year.

Around campus last year, I would see fellow students on crutches, walking boots, or arm slings all the time, without giving it a second thought.

Last summer, I tore the labrum in my left shoulder which required surgery. The doctor told me I would not be back to tennis for six months, and that was a daunting diagnosis. That experience changed the outlook I had on severe sports injuries, and the impact they can have on student athletes and how student athletes around campus use their time off injured in productive ways.

> *"When I found out I was injured I was misdiagnosed with a sprained ligament in my elbow, something that only takes a few weeks to recover from so I was in good spirits."*

I would ride the stationary bike as soon as I was able to, just to stay in shape. But finding ways to be active were very difficult. I went to physical therapy three times a week, and never forgot to do my exercises before bed. There were many low points in my journey back, such as sitting on the couch with an ice pack on beautiful summer days, but maintaining a positive mindset and setting goals is one of the most essential aspects of achieving a full recovery.

Ryan Hebert '22 who is looking to have a big impact on the baseball team, is in a similar or perhaps even in some ways a tougher situation. He suffered a full UCL tear in his throwing arm and will miss the entirety of his first collegiate season. "When I found out I was injured I was misdiagnosed with a sprained ligament in my elbow, something that only takes a few weeks to recover from so I was in good spirits," Hebert said. "However, after two months, I never got better and requested an MRI which showed a full thickness tear of my UCL, which left me in a pretty dark place. That meant I wouldn't pick up a baseball for nearly a year and miss the entirety of my freshman season, one where I was supposed to play a decent amount."

"When I told my coach that I was out for the year, he told me that I was still a part of the team. I could help out with assistant coaching duties like keeping the scorebook and the scoreboard." Yet, Hebert realized he could be doing more. He did not let the disappointment of the injury overshadow him. He decided to overtake all of the team's social media duties to boost support for them around campus. "I realized that our team lacked a well run social media page. Being a big technology guy I thought it would be fun to start something to help our parents back at home follow the team as well as first hand looks into practice and traveling. I have experience with Photoshop so it felt like a fun way I could use my skills to stay involved with the team."

One of the hardest parts about major sports injuries is understanding that the recovery period will require patience. There are no shortcuts. But, as Hebert is showing, there are numerous ways student athletes can contribute to their teams off the field. He also makes sure there is music at every practice.

So, the next time you see one of your classmates on crutches or in an arm cast around campus, they may not be making a difference on the field, but they may be making a difference off of it.

From cadet to mule

By Alex Blum
Sports Section Editor

Last semester he was enrolled at the United States Military Academy at West Point, but now he is back to where it all began. Growing up in Allentown and a Parkland High School graduate, Samuel Morgan '22 has returned to his roots and is the newest member of the Muhlenberg track and field team as a mid-distance runner. He is also the son of Jeff and Tori Morgan, both of whom are Muhlenberg graduates as members of the class of '90. Perhaps it was his destiny all along to wind up as a Mule himself and continue the family tradition.

The decision to transfer from such a prestigious academy in West Point is one that is certainly difficult and requires lots of contemplation. For Morgan, the decision to ultimately attend the United States Military Academy and run Division-I track for the Black Knights came late into his senior year at Parkland. With the physical demands that come along with running as well as the academic workload that West Point bears proved to be a worthwhile experience for Morgan. "My academic year at West Point started in late August and while running Division-I track and taking 20 credit hours, it wasn't easy," says Morgan. "I was up at about 6 a.m. every day and stayed up until around 11:15 p.m. doing homework every night. I learned a lot of great lessons about respect, time management, and being a well rounded individual."

Not only did he have to report for the academic year, but Morgan also had to go through a rigorous summer basic training program. "I had to report for summer basic training starting July 1 till Aug. 18. I had no phone and went through vigorous army training and learned a lot of discipline. It was an eye opening experience that I am glad I say I completed."

Although Morgan developed incredible friendships at the academy, he was still unsure how committed he was to the idea of serving eight years in the military following his time at West Point and believed his parents' alma mater could be the place for him to excel. "During the end of the semester with lots running through my mind about possibly leaving the academy due to not being fully 100 percent bought into the army for eight years after West Point, I saw Muhlenberg as a great opportunity to continue my education."

Morgan also expressed just how appreciative he was for the once in a lifetime experience, the lifelong friendships, and the mentoring he received. "Leaving some of my best friends at the academy that I will have for the rest of my life was tough. I thank everyone there for giving me guidance and supporting me even when I decided to transfer from the academy."

Muhlenberg is nothing like West Point and in his first full semester and he has had to adjust to the different lifestyle. "The biggest difference so far has been the amount of free time that I have here at Muhlenberg with no one really looking over my shoulder. I knew that coming from West Point I would have a lot more freedom with no one really keeping as close of an eye on me. But I took it as a challenge to still use my time constructively and keep my grades high."

Although he arrived not too long ago, the entire team has welcomed him with open arms and have made him feel like he has been here the entire time "The team here has welcomed me. They always make me feel part of the family by constantly making sure I am getting acclimated here and including me in trips to the dining hall, long runs, and hanging out on the weekends or any free time we have. The bonding has been great. There is no better bonding then going out on a long run together. I have a lot of respect for everyone on the team and especially my coaches. Coach Fin and Coach Hackett make sure that I get the best opportunities possible here at Muhlenberg and are always checking up to make sure things are going smoothly. I can't thank them enough for that. The team has really made me feel like I am a part of a family even in the four weeks I have been here.

Not only is Morgan excited to begin his journey at Muhlenberg, but Coach Brad Hackett is also excited with the contribution and the impact he has had already on the team. "I think anytime we have a new athlete who can contribute right away it changes the dynamic of the team for the better. So, yes, Sam has made an impact."

Coach Hackett has noticed how well the team has received Morgan and made him comfortable. "We had a really great week of preseason camp the week before classes started. Each year the team has a talent show, we had a community service project for the Mercy School and an inter-squad scrimmage. All of these I think helped Sam get adjusted to his new teammates".

In his short time as a Mule, Morgan has already made an impression on Coach Hackett and the rest of the coaching staff with his performance at their most recent meet at The Armory on Feb. 1. "Last night at The Armory he ran the eighth fastest 800 time in school history which is great for a freshman, and then he turned around a couple hours later and ran a great leg on our 4x400 relay."

from **Basketball** page 12

the current team in third place. A win would capture yet another season series tiebreaker against the Fords, since Muhlenberg already beat them earlier this season). And a second or first place finish is unlikely as the women dropped matchups against Johns Hopkins and Gettysburg already this season and would have to make up at least three games on each team.

But a realistic ceiling of a place finish is perfectly acceptable. In the 2011-12 season the Mules finished third at the end of the regular season and won the Centennial Conference Championship, advancing to the NCAA regional tournament.

This is a team that has shown the capability to get hot for a stretch of games too. The women enjoyed a nine game win streak to begin the season and are had another four game win streak snapped on Feb. 5 against Dickinson.

"Our defense has been solid and has been able to force more turnovers. Our offense has become more efficient and we are shooting at a higher percentage," said Hamilton.

On to men. Currently the team is 8-6 in conference which slots them in fourth. They have four games remaining that can influence their playoff chances. Their two most impressive wins have come against defending conference champions Johns Hopkins.

"The game plan going into Hopkins was just to play our game and attack their aggressive defense," said team captain Brendan Hughes '19. "They love to attack ball handlers with traps and their weak side defense is solid."

The Mules were down four at halftime. "One adjustment we made was to fan out our top two guards in our zone out to shooters when the ball went to the middle. In the first half we worried about the top guard too much," Hughes explained. "We took that away in the second half which helped us get a huge win."

Although the two wins don't give the Mules any immediate tie breaking advantage, they have obviously put themselves in better position by winning those games while sending a message to the rest of their conference that their defense and youth is legit.

The last time the men's program made the playoffs was when they finished fifth in the conference during the 2013-14 season. That was the last season of a four year run where the Mules made the playoffs each year, reaching the Conference Championship game in 2011-2012. The men's team is already young, starting four freshman and a sophomore against Johns Hopkins on Feb. 2, but earning a playoff berth would be new to all members of the program, and certainly an experience Hughes strives for in his final season.

"We have a lot of young guys but they have been playing serious minutes all year, we are not a typical young team. When the moment comes I know guys will be ready to perform," said Hughes in total confidence of his teammates.

Get out the cardinal Sharpie markers out again. Mark Feb. 9 and Feb 13. Those two dates pit 'Berg against Franklin & Marshall and Ursinus, respectively. The scenarios for each are simple. Franklin & Marshall is in sixth, hoping for a late season collapse from either the Mules or Dickinson. Ursinus is in a three way tie for first. Over the remaining two weeks of the season the conglomeration of teams atop the Centennial will surely break up, but because of their leads over the next closest teams in the standings (the Mules and Dickinson) it is likely they will remain in the top three spots.

Keep in mind, like the women's playoff scenarios, the men's tournament also includes the top five teams in the conference regular season standings.

A win over Franklin & Marshall can clinch a playoff spot for the Mules, but doesn't guarantee seeding. A win over Ursinus does however give the Mules a better shot to host a fourth seed against fifth seed playoff game...

Hold on.

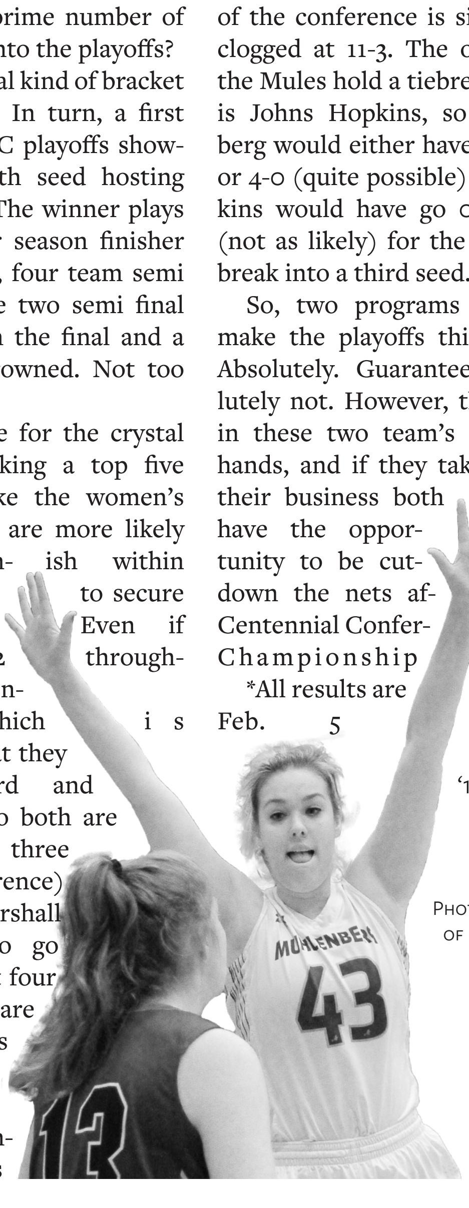
A fourth seed vs. fifth seed "play-in" game? Yes. You read correctly. And the worst part is, the same holds true for the women's bracket too. I have held this back because for the sake of our health it is best that the somewhat confusing system is only explained once. Didn't red flags go off when it was stated that the ugly, prime number of five teams get into the playoffs?

Thus, a special kind of bracket must be made. In turn, a first round of the CC playoffs showcases the fourth seed hosting the fifth seed. The winner plays the top regular season finisher in a traditional, four team semi final game. The two semi final winners play in the final and a champion is crowned. Not too bad, right?

Anyway, time for the crystal ball again. Making a top five spot? Much like the women's team, the men are more likely than not to finish within the threshold to secure a playoff spot. Even if they only go 2-2 throughout their remaining four (which is likely, being that they play Haverford and Gettysburg who both are in the bottom three of the conference) Franklin & Marshall would need to go 4-0 in their last four games which are all against teams in the top five standing positions. Finishing fourth is the most realistic place for the Mules to finish out their season when taking their own, and their opponents, schedule into consideration. Muhlenberg jumping to a top three spot is unlikely, even if they win out. The top of the conference is simply too clogged at 11-3. The only team the Mules hold a tiebreaker over is Johns Hopkins, so Muhlenberg would either have to go 3-1 or 4-0 (quite possible) but Hopkins would have go 0-4 or 1-3 (not as likely) for the Mules to break into a third seed.

So, two programs likely to make the playoffs this winter? Absolutely. Guaranteed? Absolutely not. However, the fate is in these two team's collective hands, and if they take care of their business both will have the opportunity to be cutting down the nets after a Centennial Conference Championship final.

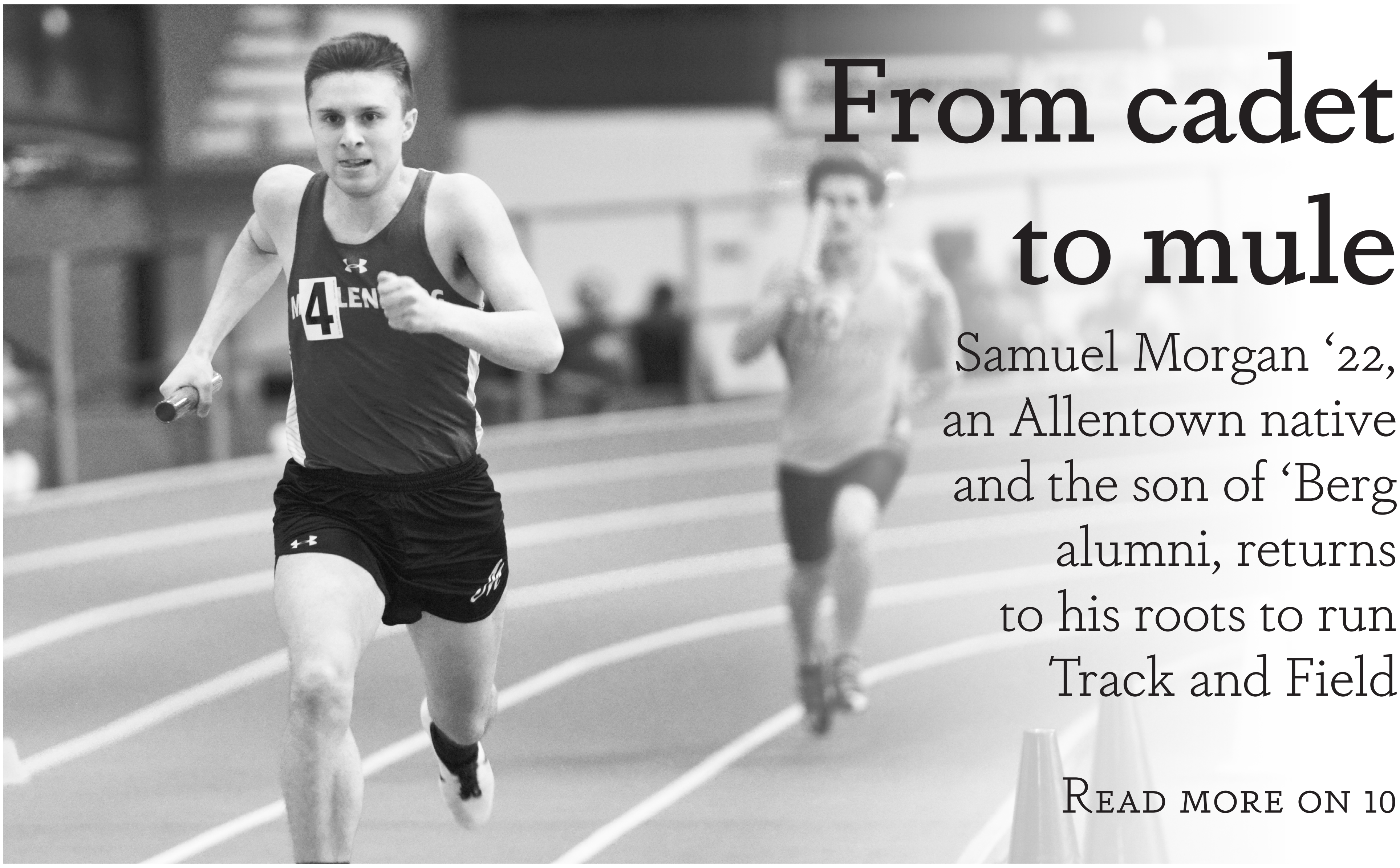
*All results are through Feb. 5



Hamilton '19 defends against an inbound

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS



From cadet to mule

Samuel Morgan '22, an Allentown native and the son of 'Berg alumni, returns to his roots to run Track and Field

Read more on 10

Basketball programs make playoff push

Muhlenberg men's and women's teams in position to make Centennial Conference tournament

By Matt Riebesell
Managing Editor

Both Muhlenberg basketball programs are riding win streaks which have put them on pace to make the Centennial Conference playoffs.

Through games on Feb. 5 the women's squad is in fifth place with an in-conference record of 9-6.

Muhlenberg holds a tiebreaker advantage over Ursinus - who ranks fourth - thanks to a win on Jan. 24 which swung the season series in favor of the Mules. The two teams are slated to meet once more in Collegeville, Pa. on Feb. 13 in a matchup that could have major implications on this season's playoff picture.

Two more dates to have circled on the calendar in thick red ink (or cardinal, if we are being appropriate), are Feb. 7 against Haverford and Feb. 16 against Franklin & Marshall. The results of both matchups will greatly impact the women's odds of reaching the highest seed as possible (which we will explore below). They could also be the deciding factors on the program potentially missing out on a playoff spot.

Regardless, a fifth place standing is unfamiliar territory for the Mules, and literally unchartered territory for any of the women on the current roster. The current student-athletes on the Mules haven't experienced a regular season finish lower than second in the Centennial regular season. In fact, the program hasn't dropped below third in the regular season standings since the 2013-14 season, and beyond that the Mules have made the CC playoffs every season since their 2004-05 campaign. Their most recent string of championships went from 2014-15 to 2016-17 when the team won three titles back to back to back.

Not to say that a fifth place finish season would be a let down for the program. The playoffs are the playoffs. If success is had in the playoffs for any sports team, professional or collegiate, the memories will be about hoisting trophies rather than the seeding of the playoff spot the team achieved at the end of the regular season. Even so, there is still time to jump a spot or two in the standings.

"(We are) a program that has been very successful in the past. We do not put pressure on ourselves to achieve great success," said captain Carley Hamilton '19. "We just play basketball. This team needs to remain mentally tough and focus on winning one game at a time. If we do that, nerves will not be an issue."

Time to predict the future. Well, maybe not predict as much as lay out the future and go over many of the possible scenarios. There is guaranteed to be enough talk of percentage point to make even the brightest Muhlenberg statistic major's head spin.

As of now, for the women, making the playoffs - which requires a top five finish in the Conference - is more likely to occur than not. Franklin & Marshall is currently in sixth, and they would have to leapfrog Muhlenberg to make the playoffs (that is why you circled Feb. 16 in cardinal ink on your calendar). A fourth place finish is probable (especially thanks to that tiebreaker over Ursinus mentioned earlier). A third place finish is possible (The Mules do play Haverford [cardinal ink!],

see **Basketball** page 11

Coming up this week in
SPORTS
Feb. 7 through Feb. 9

Women's Basketball
Muhlenberg vs *McDaniel*
Thursday, Feb. 7 @ 7:30 pm
Memorial Hall

Track and Field
Fast Track National Invitational
Friday, Feb. 8
Staten Island, N.Y.

Wrestling
Centennial Conference Championships
Saturday, Feb. 9
King's Point, N.Y.

Men's Basketball
Muhlenberg vs *Franklin & Marshall*
Saturday, Feb. 9 @ 3:00 pm
Lancaster, Pa.

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Read inside:

Previewing Mr. Burns: A Post Electric Play

read more on 6

MUHLENBERG CIRCUS

NEWS

Muhlenberg is the fourth school to establish a chapter of the Alpha Alpha Alpha honor society – but one professor thinks we should do more.

read more on 4

ARTS & CULTURE

New comedian Drew Dunn brings Microsoft Sam to life once more, marking and noting the technological age we are snowballing into.

read more on 7

OP/ED

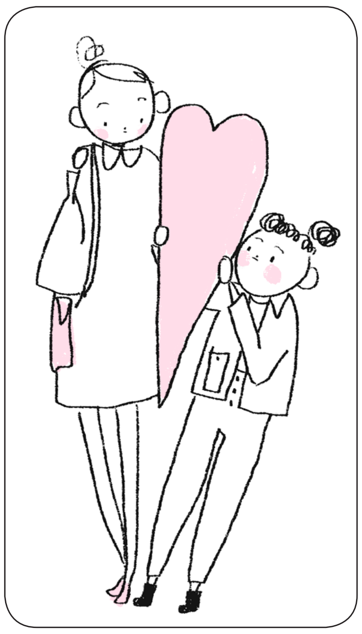
The Editorial Board comments on ICE's recent arrest of the rapper 21 Savage and their detailed history of human rights violations since their inception sixteen years ago.

read more on 8

SPORTS

The two-time Centennial Conference player of the week, Dan Gaines '22 is rapidly growing to become the focal point of a Mules team centered around its youth.

read more on 10



Masters enchants audiences with high energy and skilled artistry

"The intensity of both the music and the choreography really captivated me [...] It was hard to look away from the stage!"

READ ON PAGE 5

Bieber Bus shutdown leaves wrestling team stranded

The 72-year old company's sudden shutdown leaves many students wondering how they will get home for the holidays

BY CHLOE GRAVEREAUX
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Bieber Bus shut down abruptly and for good on Friday, Feb. 8, leaving the Mules wrestling team at Centennial Conference finals in New York City without a bus home.

"It was so stupid," said Scott Schaeffer '20.

"The bus driver wasn't told [that the bus would not be returning] until he got to Merchant Marine," said Schaeffer. "He got us back to the hotel and went home."

Many across the Lehigh Valley shared the same experience - a ski club trip to the Poconos and senior citizens on the way to a flower show found their rides canceled suddenly and without notice, even from their drivers.

Bieber is one of the transportation companies Muhlenberg uses for athletics away meets, career center road trips and student busing to and from New York, New Jersey and Philadelphia. The company closed with just over a million dollars in delinquent taxes, unpaid bills-including to the Port Authority stop in New York and fees for dropping riders off in between stops.

MUHLENBERG
COLLEGE

PHOTO COURTESY OF OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

One of the Muhlenberg-branded Bieber buses used to transport students to and from off-campus events.

"Bieber Bus has been serving Muhlenberg College students and the college directly for many years. It has been a stalwart provider of transportation in the Lehigh Valley for a long time and we are of course very disturbed by this news that Bieber has shut down," said President John I. Williams. "It's a great inconvenience for many of our students and our faculty and staff. We have used Bieber for years to transport our athletic teams and career roadtrips, so we will have to find alternatives as a college, and our faculty and staff will need to find alternatives for their personal transportation."

Jason P. Feiertag, Chief Budgeting and Accounting Officer, is in charge of Muhlenberg's contract with Bieber and had to help reschedule some buses.

"We had three busses scheduled over the weekend for the-

SEE **BIEBER** PAGE 3

It's up for debate

Michael Sova '20 works to establish debate team

BY SYDNEY COPLIN
NEWS EDITOR

When Michael Sova '20 first came to campus, he sought out a community of students with similar goals of improving persuasive and argumentative skills; in other words, he was looking for a debate team. With the absence of the type of organization he desired, last December, he took initiative in establishing a debate club, which he hopes to eventually grow into a debate team.

Within the debate club, students will learn the foundations of forming and understanding arguments.

"Since the debate team is a long-term goal, the only way to get involved with the debate team is to join the debate club," explains Sova. "Students will benefit intellectually from both the conversations that they will participate in and the arguments that they learn to build."

As the president of the debate

SEE **DEBATE** PAGE 3

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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CORRECTION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly strives for accuracy in reporting and writing, but we acknowledge that mistakes happen. Readers are invited to submit corrections about errors in articles, and they should be submitted to weeklyeditor@gmail.com. Corrections are also brought to our staff's attention by our own editors and writers. Our staff will review the suggested correction, consult with the author of the article, and issue the appropriate correction. Online corrections are located at the bottom of the article. Print corrections are located within the paper, on the page indicated in the online edition. However, The Weekly does not grant take-down requests for articles.

ADVERTISING POLICY

We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

Monday, February 4
Welfare check - 1:00 a.m.
Report to locate student at Martin Luther. Contact made and student was transported to the hospital by Campus Safety officer.

Found property - 9:31 p.m.
Report of found Nintendo Switch at Prosser Hall. Item was returned to owner.

Tuesday, February 5
No crime reported.

Wednesday, February 6
Fire alarm - 12:05 a.m.
Report of fire alarm in Martin Luther from shower steam. System was silenced and reset.

Sick student - 3:22 a.m.
Report of sick student in Walz Hall. Allentown EMS responded and transported student to hospital.

Property damage - 4:24 a.m.
Report of damage found to door lock at Gordon Street. Plant Operations was notified to repair door.

Sick student - 12:30 p.m.
Report of sick student in Shankweiler. Muhlenberg EMS responded and transported student to the Student Health Services.

Property damage - 1:33 p.m.
Report of damage to grass area on Albright Street. Individual identified and spoken to and Plant Operations was notified of the damage.

Suspicious person - 3:15 p.m.
Report of suspicious person at Prosser Hall. Area checked and investigation to continue.

Sick student - 9:00 p.m.
Report of sick student at Life Sports Center. Muhlenberg EMS responded and student refused further treatment.

Suspicious person - 8:30 p.m.
Report of suspicious person at Seegers Union. Area checked but nothing could be found.

Thursday, February 7
Found property - 2:10 a.m.
Report of found cell phone in Prosser Hall. Item later returned to the owner.

Found property - 12:21 p.m.
Report of found wallet in East Hall, message left with owner to pick up at Campus Safety Office

Welfare check - 12:00 p.m.
Report to locate student at back drive, contact made, student was transported to Student Health Services.

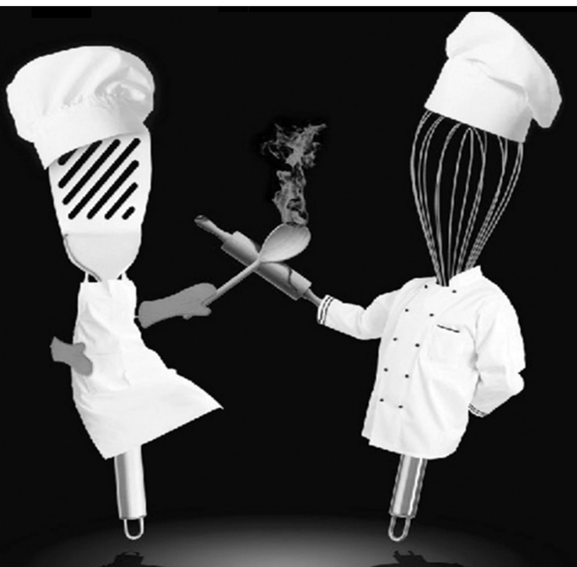
Property damage - 2:17 p.m.
Report of graffiti in East Hall, investigation to continue.

Friday, February 8
Alcohol violation - 10:16 p.m.
Report alcohol violation at Walz Hall. Individual identified, alcohol disposed of by Campus Safety Office.

Saturday, February 9
Hit & run - 4:00 p.m.
Report of hit and run of a vehicle at faculty housing, causing damage to left side of a vehicle. No suspects at this time.

Sunday, February 10
Suspicious person - 6:44 p.m.
Report of suspicious person at sorority house, area checked and the investigation will continue.

Odor investigation - 9:49 p.m.
Report of smell of marijuana in Martin Luther, individuals spoken to and there was no further incident.



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4:30PM
2/20/19
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COMMONS

FIVE COLLEGES. ONE NIGHT. ONE WINNER.

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FROM **DEBATE** PAGE 3

club, Sova currently has two primary goals: focusing on facilitating conversations on-campus, and branching out to facilitate conversations across other campuses.

"Since we do not require funding, the former of these goals will be easier to jump into right away, as we only need approval for space and coordination between those involved," explains Sova. "The latter will take more time and money. Much like athletics or theater on campus, intercollegiate debate requires dedicated practice, a coach, travel, etc."

While the debate club and debate team are currently synonymous for the most part, they do have different purposes and visions associated with them.

"As a new club on campus, debate club is in the planning phase, including private dialogue (test-runs) sessions between clubs on campus and working with some other campus organizations," says Sova. "On the debate team side, we have been focused on setting down the foundation (acquiring proper funding, expanding the scope of interest and searching for a potential coach)."

Sova recognizes that since he is a junior, he most likely won't see his vision of a debate team completely come to life during his remaining time on campus. That being said, he is really focused on trying to gain momentum and interest from both students and faculty.

He is specifically looking into departments like Political Science, Philosophy and Theatre.

"Our mission is two-fold. In terms of dialogue, we want to empower individuals on this campus to have their voices heard, to have them participate and create persuasive arguments, and overall, add to a diversity of voices throughout campus in hopes of preventing monolithic representation of ANY group," says Sova. "For debate, we will compete in hopes of putting Muhlenberg on a new stage, one that has gone wholly unexplored in the past, and, in this pursuit, individuals will improve public-speaking skills and ability to improvise solid arguments in pressured situations."

PHOTO COURTESY OF PEXELS

Overall, Sova is very excited about the prospects of this organization.

"This is the first and only organization that I have had a full say in on campus. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work with everyone to expand the scope of my vision to what others see fit," says Sova. "I cannot say what my favorite part of this organization is yet, as we have so much to do as it is, but I can say that whatever happens, I am ecstatic for the future. I believe this is not only what we need as a school, but what we need as a community.″

Patrick Deneen talks classical Liberalism to a modern audience

BY MELISSA REPH
ONLINE CONTENT EDITOR

The lecture series "Elections 2018: The Politics of Urgency and Uncertainty" wrapped up on Thursday, Feb. 7 with Patrick Deneen. An author and professor at the University of Notre Dame, Deneen came to campus with a talk entitled "Why Liberalism Failed - But is Conservatism the Answer?" Drawing the attention of students, faculty and community members alike.

Deneen's hour lecture centered around political theory and more specifically gave an in depth look at Liberalism.

"I think that the title tonight was a little bit misleading... but as Professor Gambino just indicated I'm not talking about liberalism in everyday language," he clarified at the beginning. Quickly differentiating between the political theory of Classical Liberalism associated with John Locke and Thomas Jefferson and the left leaning modern ideology of liberalism associated with the Democratic party.

Deneen's lecture was an attempt to show the evolution of Liberalism. He interwove the works and theories of various political philosophers to best set up his argument; that he believes Liberalism, and the governments and societies shaped around it, have reached their logical conclusion and are now on the decline.

"It's liberalism's great success that is leading to its failure," Deneen said.

Using Alexis de Tocqueville's analogy that in an aristocracy each person is a link in a larger chain, Deneen explained that John Locke and his idea of Liberalism "breaks the chain", explaining that "our manifestation of liberty is when we become unlinked."

PHOTO COURTESY OF OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Patrick Deneen giving the final Election Series lecture of the 2018-2019 school year.

Paraphrasing Locke Deneen said "we enter society only on the terms that we need as much freedom to maintain life, liberty and property."

Deneen argues that with more freedoms people become more detached from each other. That this detachment can currently be seen in rising rates of loneliness and the ever present increase in social media. That "common culture is fading."

In a world that is increasingly conscious of party polarization, Deneen said that "our deepest crisis isn't necessarily polarization ... it's in the operating system."

It was that polarization that actually led to Deneen coming to Muhlenberg. "We wanted to bring someone who had a bit of a different ideological perspective rather than the liberal vs conservative perspective...Deneen rises to that level," Jack Gambino later explained.

"[Deneen] gives a big picture kind of view outside the normal boxes, the normal labels of our political perspective," Gambino said, in addition to the reception of Deneen's most recent book which "immediately touched a nerve" when it was published.

"You bring speakers to campus who are provocative to get students to think outside the box," said Gambino. "Judging by my students in class this morning, he was successful in doing that."

Gambino said he hopes that those who attended now "have a greater appreciation for the value of political ideas. Liberalism itself is about ideas, about how we reshape our world because we begin to think about ourselves in a different way... ideas can have a powerful impact in how people look at themselves and the world."

FROM **BIEBER** PAGE 1

atre. We had to scramble to get them buses," said Feiertag. "We were able to do that, but the bigger picture is athletics. We had a contract with Bieber to provide all our athletic transportation."

The wrestling team was able to get a Trans-Bridge bus to return to campus the next morning, which drew praise from Lynne Tubman, Athletic Director.

"I am so impressed with the department′s response. It was a true team effort! The staff worked together to reach out to multiple bus companies to ensure our teams traveling this weekend and this week had transportation," said Tubman.

The transportation for the rest of the spring season is still to be decided, said Tubman.

"We are currently receiving bids from other bus companies to cover the remainder of our teams' transportation needs for the spring," said Tubman.

The College is currently looking at Trans-Bridge, Coach, Kline transportation, and JJ Limousine, according to Fiertag.

Wrestling Coach Jason McLean referred to the situation as "just a little more shuffling."

"Our athletic department heads are very much on top of things," said McLean. "We were in constant communication with our office and everything worked out smoothly."

The wrestling team went on to win two out of three matches and place fourth in the Centennial Conference Championships- despite the busing blues.

Students looking to travel have the option of Klein transportation, Trans-Bridge and Fullington Trailways.

To receive a refund for already purchased tickets, visit the Bieber Bus website or email tourways@biebergroup.

Straddling two worlds:

Muhlenberg becomes fourth ever campus to establish a chapter of Alpha Alpha Alpha honor society for first generation students

By Chloe Gravereaux
Editor-in-Chief

Photo Courtesy of Unsplash

Muhlenberg now boasts the fourth ever chapter of Alpha Alpha Alpha honor society, which recognizes the success of for first generation-college students, and will induct new members in April of this year.

Alpha Alpha Alpha was founded last fall at neighboring Moravian College by Carol Traupman-Carr, Associate Provost of Moravian College and a first generation student herself.

“First-gens get a lot of attention in higher education news and workshops; often, the conversation focuses on what they need, coming from families that don’t understand the college journey, especially where first-generation students come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Of course, not all first-gens are the same, and not all need the same supports,” said Traupman-Carr in an interview by My Moravian.

“I discovered that for all the attention that first-gens get, there is no honor society for them. So I asked the president if we could start one and got his complete support,” said Traupman-Carr.

Traupman-Carr then opened up applications to the Lehigh Valley Association of Independent Colleges (LVAIC) members to be next chapters, explained Provost Kathleen Harring.

“Not only does Muhlenberg now have a chapter,” said Harring, “100 years from now we are going to be viewed as one of the first.”

Muhlenberg is the Delta chapter of Alpha Alpha Alpha, meaning the fourth ever chapter, right after Salem and Lafayette College. Moravian holds the title of the Alpha chapter.

“It aligns very well with our commitment to supporting all of our students - in particular a diverse student body and with the work Professor Lonsinger and Dean Anderson have been doing in order to provide targeted support for first generation students,” said Harring.

Dawn Lonsinger, Assistant Professor of English, and Bruce Anderson, Dean of Academic Life, are advisors to the Honor Society as well as co-directors of the First Generation Advocacy and Support group, which is also new to campus. The support group took shape last fall at a meet and greet of first generation mentors and students.

To Lonsinger, the support group is more beneficial to students than the honor society.

“Because social class is still something we are uncomfortable talking about in American culture, because we are all sold on the notion that we should want to escape and transcend our class (and that such a transformation is complete), because most college students from poor or working class families have a different set of skills and concerns than their peers, because they are an invisible group who are inadvertently but omnipresently taught to feel shame about their upbringing, because they do not have easy access to material privileges and the cultural cache that comes with money and status, because they should know they are not alone, the development of a first-generation community at Muhlenberg is very important,” said Lonsinger.

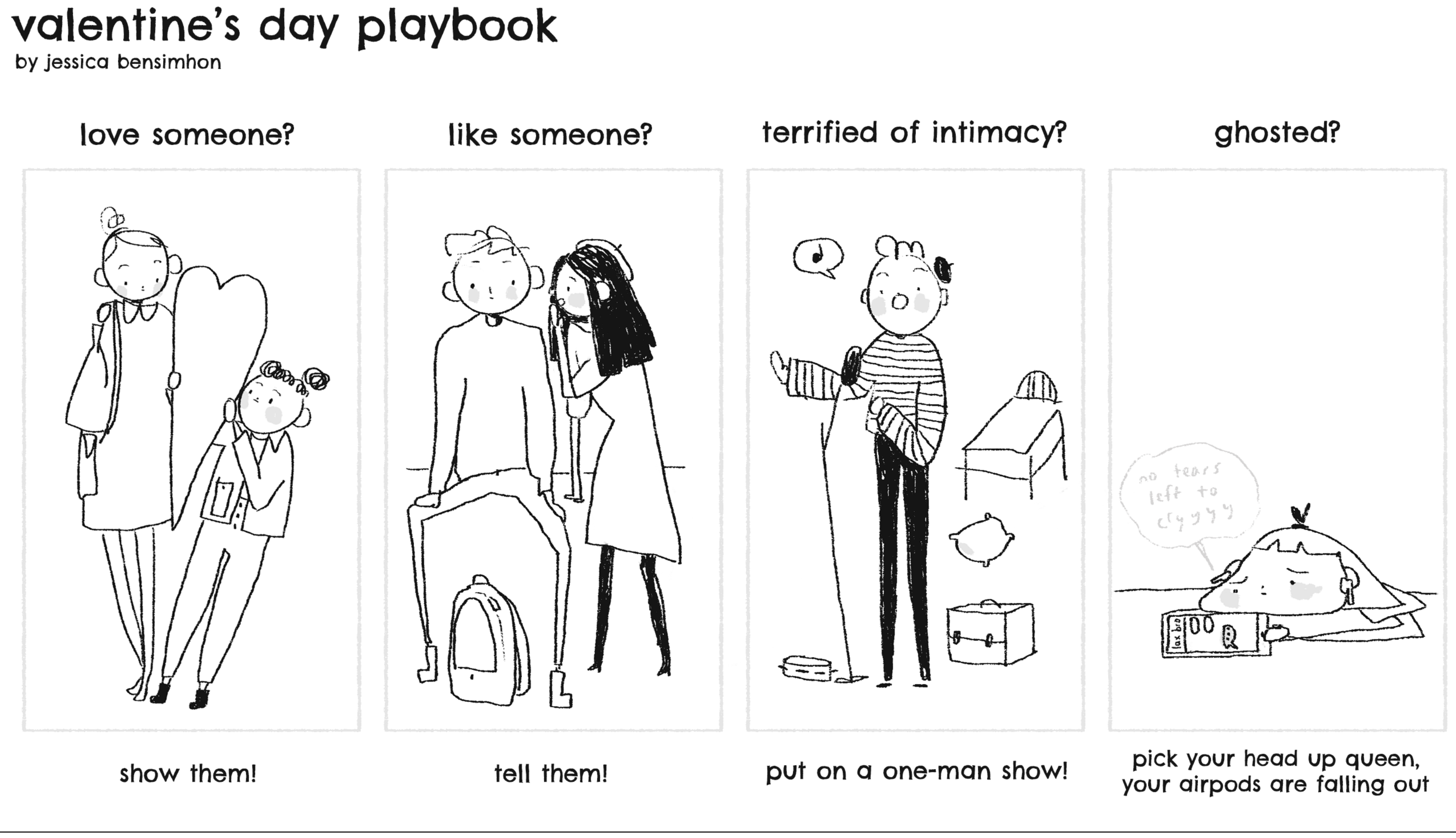
Lonsinger, who has a BA, MA, MFA, and a PhD, is an award-winning poet, a published author of *Whelm* and is also a first generation student. Her mother was a factory worker and her father a janitor.

“When I arrived at Bucknell University [as a student], there were support networks in place for women, LGBTQ students and students of color, but there was no evidence of any support for students from working class or poor backgrounds for whom college was largely, before stepping foot on one, a foreign concept, as alien as Paris, Burberry, or beef bourguignon. That always seemed odd to me, but more importantly, it made college harder for me, because I continued to carry the shame of growing up poor amid my largely upper-middle class peers,” said Lonsinger.

“Like most first generation students, I was straddling two worlds, the world of intellectuals and the middle class and the world I returned to at home, and the longer I was in college the more strongly I felt a sense of exile in both places. Now I know that there must have been other people on campus who were also first-generation, but I had no way of knowing and thus no easy accessible community that could understand all I was grappling with. This is all a long-winded way of saying that I believe such a group is vital to the health, well-being and success of first generation college students.”

Lonsinger is planning workshops for professors on teaching first gen students, focusing on changing the depiction of poverty as “the other.” She also plans to hold a panel to help first generation students at Muhlenberg straddle their two worlds.

These students have strengths that come with their backgrounds, like a dedicated work ethic and life skills–everything from laundry to meal preparation, said Lonsinger. She hopes in meeting other first gen students, they will learn to recognize and utilize those skills, and remember that they are not alone in their two worlds.


valentine’s day playbook
by jessica bensimhon
love someone?
show them!
like someone?
tell them!
terrified of intimacy?
put on a one-man show!
ghosted?
no tears left to cryyyy
lax bro
pick your head up queen, your airpods are falling out

"We tell ourselves stories in order to live."

-Joan Didion

Berg's Master Choreographers enchants all

Performers rise, fall, jump, fly, and captivate the audience in a weekend of magic

By Ellen Powers
Staff Writer

The Muhlenberg community was graced with the annual spring dance performance *Master Choreographers* last weekend. *Master Choreographers* featured seven dance works choreographed by some faculty members from Muhlenberg's dance department, as well as a few guest choreographers. All the dancers were Muhlenberg students, and their talent and love for dance was apparent in every piece of the evening.

Each piece featured a group of dancers that was clearly connected to each other both physically through their movement, as well as emotionally. Michaela Feinberg '19 participated in both Megan Flynn's and Heidi Cruz-Austin's selections, explaining how this connection was forged before each performance: "Before every show, we had a warm up as a group which was always high energy and helped us get warmed up and emotionally ready to dance together. It really fosters a sense of community and helps us get used to sharing the stage with fellow dancers." The level of chemistry between the dancers made every piece substantially more compelling for the audience.

The concert began with "For Harriet, Whom History Forgot," which was a modern piece choreographed by Muhlenberg faculty member Megan Flynn, in collaboration with the dancers in the piece. It highlighted each individual dancer, starting them off in a row all together, but each one of them had their own specific movements, which made the opening of the piece that much more intriguing. Feinberg described how "the rehearsal process was very collaborative, and we spent a few weeks making, rearranging, and developing material." Through this collaborative effort, the choreography developed by Flynn and the dancers became equally precise and natural. In addition, the dancers in this selection showed no fear, lifting and spinning each other in mesmerizing ways.

Guest choreographewr Kevin Jenkins' piece "A Simpler Time?" was a unique and delightful part of the work. The music, "Come Go With Me" by The Beach Boys and Simon and Garfunkel's "The Boxer," were fun and upbeat songs that were coupled with dancers who were graceful and on pointe. This contrast made the piece equally entertaining and compelling for the audience. Jenkins' choreography highlighted the dancers' precise physicality, focusing on the movements and angles of wrists, elbows, and arms.

"Self-Postponement," choreographed by guest choreographer Michael Nickerson-Rossi, made *Master Choreographers* take a shift towards the haunting and dark, but in an artful and breathtaking way. Featuring flowing movement from every dancer, the heart of the piece was a dance and vocal duet by Tommy Gedrich '21 and Cheyanne Leid '20. They were able to hit every note while bending into seemingly impossible positions, which was particularly impressive.

The first act of *Master Choreographers* closed with Muhlenberg faculty member Randall Anthony Smith's "Gambit of Humanity," which was inspired by Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o's "The Upright Revolution: Or Why Humans Walk Upright." The piece immediately got the audience's attention with the dancers clapping rhythmically and assuming different animal-like poses each time the lights flashed on. Every element of the piece, sound, lighting, and choreography, in addition to the performances came together to masterfully create a surreal primal environment. The dancers in this piece all had the chance to highlight their physicality and ability, which allowed them all to create their respective animal in the dance.

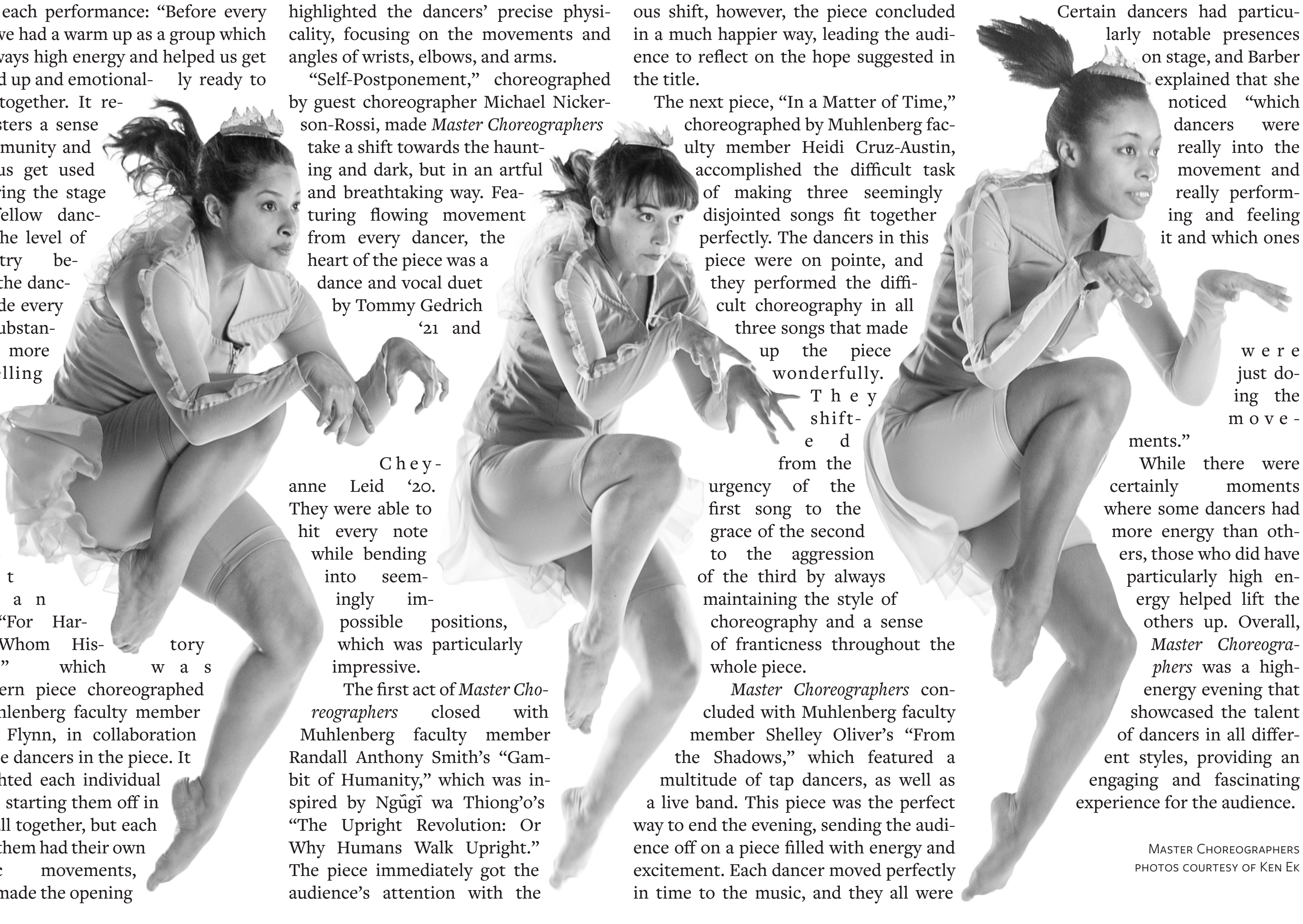
Guest choreographer Cynthia Gutierrez-Garner's "Of History and Hope" opened the second act of the concert, and it reflected on the titular history and hope in a manner that was the perfect mix of thoughtful and jovial. The piece started simply, but its intensity increased when the dancers began to speak an excerpt from Miller Williams' poem of the same name as the piece. After this more serious shift, however, the piece concluded in a much happier way, leading the audience to reflect on the hope suggested in the title.

The next piece, "In a Matter of Time," choreographed by Muhlenberg faculty member Heidi Cruz-Austin, accomplished the difficult task of making three seemingly disjointed songs fit together perfectly. The dancers in this piece were on pointe, and they performed the difficult choreography in all three songs that made up the piece wonderfully. They shifted from the urgency of the first song to the grace of the second to the aggression of the third by always maintaining the style of choreography and a sense of franticness throughout the whole piece.

Master Choreographers concluded with Muhlenberg faculty member Shelley Oliver's "From the Shadows," which featured a multitude of tap dancers, as well as a live band. This piece was the perfect way to end the evening, sending the audience off on a piece filled with energy and excitement. Each dancer moved perfectly in time to the music, and they all were clearly having a lot of fun on stage, which made the piece that much more fun for the audience to watch. The inclusion of a live band for the piece instead of a recorded track made the number feel that much more energetic because the dancers and the audience could directly feel the music.

Each piece in *Master Choreographers* had its own unique energy that was apparent throughout the audience. As Brenna Barber '22 described "The intensity of both the music and the choreography really captivated me [...] It was hard to look away from the stage!" The dancers worked together to represent the choreographer's vision for the piece, and they did so through their technique and artistry. The execution of this became known to varying degrees in each piece, but it was always present in the piece. Certain dancers had particularly notable presences on stage, and Barber explained that she noticed "which dancers were really into the movement and really performing and feeling it and which ones were just doing the movements."

While there were certainly moments where some dancers had more energy than others, those who did have particularly high energy helped lift the others up. Overall, *Master Choreographers* was a high-energy evening that showcased the talent of dancers in all different styles, providing an engaging and fascinating experience for the audience.



Master Choreographers
photos courtesy of Ken Ek

“I'll send you to Heaven before I send you to Hell!”

Muhlenberg's theatre department proudly presents a show to spark the ages: see *Mr. Burns* from Feb. 20-24 for a performance that will not disappoint.

By Abigail Sherman
Staff Writer

For anyone that has taken part in a production before, we all know the feeling of walking into a rehearsal studio and not feeling that click. The electricity that comes from being onstage, or onset: it energizes your performance and makes all the pieces of a puzzle fit together. Knowing that I'd be going to watch *Mr. Burns: A Post Electric Play* in the rehearsal house, I was a little worried that the puzzle wouldn't fit into place, and that I wouldn't ‘get it.’ However, from the moment the rehearsal started, the cast brought me into their moments, as part of their campfire circle.

Although the bonfire camping scene is something everyone can picture, your sense of fun and nostalgia is quickly thrown out the window with the realization that the setting isn't what it seems. The first act of *Mr. Burns* takes place shortly after the nuclear apocalypse, where six survivors have found each other and are trying to entertain themselves by recounting *The Simpsons* episode “Cape Fear.” Each character comes from a different part of the country, and Act One finds them in a moment together. Kevin Pugh ‘19 plays Matt, one of the survivors of the group, and describes what his character provides in the first act. “Matt is a guy who has just been getting by, and he stumbles across this group of people who are a bunch of survivors. One night, they try to keep themselves entertained by talking about *The Simpsons*. Matt really likes *The Simpsons*, he talks about them alot.”

Matt drives the conversation of the first act, being the source to end any awkward pause that occurs between strangers. As Pugh puts it, “I think Matt provides morale for the group, especially in the early times.” The conversations that flow between the cast in the first act are incredibly intimate, drawing the audience into their dialogue, and they made me feel like a part of the action.

Moving into the second act, the *Mr. Burns* cast is seen seven years into the future, now a makeshift theatre troupe that performs episodes of *The Simpsons* to entertain their fellow survivors and make a living. Pugh and Krystal Hall ‘21 both see quite the transformation from the first act to the second act, when their theatre troupe is rehearsing their latest show. Hall described her character Colleen, saying, “Colleen has such a huge transformation and arch throughout the show because she goes from being a very quiet and shy person being haunted by her recent trauma that she endured to eventually becoming one of the main people in charge during Act Two.”

Cole Geissler / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Julia Baker ‘19 and Nick Reit ‘19 performing a scene from Mr. Burns.

Pugh's character, on the other hand, does not lead in the same way during the second act.

“Matt is definitely not a provider in any sort of physical sense,” Pugh explains, “We joke that Matt is just there for a good time. Matt is there for the apocalypse and a good time. In Act Two, we kind of have a business going, and Colleen has picked up the slack in an emotional sense.”

Cole Geissler / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Celeste Samson ‘22 takes the stage in a masked costume.

Act Two can be seen as a more classically written play, but keeps the nuances of real people having actual relationships instead of a scripted narrative. During their rehearsal scene, we see the characters creating makeshift TV screens and foley-style sound effects that slyly indicate the effects of living in a post-electric world. Act Two will give audiences the opportunity to laugh at familiarized TV tropes, but also notice the poignant moments that show a glimpse of what could be our society's future.

Act Three takes a drastic turn from the previous two, now using a futuristic combination of a Gilbert & Sullivan musical with masked theatre, stage combat, and more. Although Pugh and Hall are not in the third act, they and the rest of their cast members do an incredible job of supporting it and making it a connecting plot, especially considering that the entire show revolves around one episode of *The Simpsons.* “We're doing a lot of work to keep an audience interested in a single episode of *The Simpsons*, which is a half hour, to keep an audience interested for three hours. It's been drilled into us that we have to keep the audience invested, I think we do so much work to support it,” Pugh said.

I have to agree with him. It was incredibly impressive with how all three acts merge together to form a concise, jaw-dropping production.

What impressed me most about the first two acts was how incredibly close the cast was, and how they kept every interaction fresh despite their working together for almost two months. When asking them how the cast has bonded and the work they've done to keep every interaction new, Pugh and Hall cited similar sources. “Our cast, in my opinion, really bonded when we came back from break a week early to exclusively work on developing our characters and piecing together our own individual backgrounds and how this plays into the world of the play,” Hall stated. Pugh also described the cast's work together, saying, “We spent time talking about how we met each other, how we got to this place, what happened to us prior, what happened two weeks ago, what happened before the show starts. It's easier to act like you don't know someone when you do know them really well.”

Looking over the show as a whole, this is a production that no one at Muhlenberg should miss. Although I haven't had the privilege of seeing every character in full costume on a decked-out stage, I realized while watching the rehearsal that they don't need it to be an excellent show. Through temporary props and costumes, this cast painted an incredible detailed look into what Pugh calls, “a cautionary tale,” that can compel any audience member to look carefully at their actions and how they have developed relationships with other people and the Earth. Every cast member's energy and acting contributes to making the production truly riveting and immersive; adding set, props, and costumes will only enhance the show to make it even more incredible.

Be sure to check out *Mr. Burns: A Post Electric Play* from Feb. 20-24.

Artist of the Week: WMUH's Michelle Rajan

By Lauren D. Mazur
A&C Editor

Michelle Rajan '21 is a student of multiple talents and aspirations. Studying as a neuroscience major with a creative writing minor, Rajan is one of the many talented contributors towards Muhlenberg's local radio show, WMUH, in which, she features music of multiple languages and cultures. This includes Malayalam, Hindi, English, Bengali, and Korean.

Rajan has been a DJ on WMUH since her first semester, saying "I noticed WMUH at the fall activities fair during my first semester of freshman year and figured, 'Why not?'" She continues, "Now over a year later, I've got my own show called 'Continental Drift' and I'm the business manager. I never imagined getting this involved, it was really just because I wanted to join some clubs, and now it's become one of the most important aspects of my life."

When planning her shows, Rajan has a particular order of what content to feature and when to play it.

"I usually choose some Bollywood music first," she elaborates, "like what's new or even what's been stuck in my head. Then I try to find some other language songs that might complement the Hindi ones well, like Malayalam or Bengali. Finally, I'll try to find about an hour of English-language; I'd say I choose classic rock most of the time when it comes to English. And then if I'm really into a K-drama that week, I'll play a few songs from its OST."

Rajan's show flows very well, shifting between languages, cultures, genres, and particular *tones* within the music. This allows for a great listen and an amazing opportunity to learn new musical genres and mediums.

As far as inspiration was concerned, "my boyfriend is a singer-songwriter and his music basically follows me around. I'd say he was my inspiration for creating the show so that I could hear his music on the radio." On this note, Rajan shared how she would like to feature more local talent in the future.

Cole Geissler / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Michelle Rajan '21 preparing for her show 'Continental Drift.'

"I want to add a LOT more local talent on my show. More Muhlenberg artists would be great but, honestly, even anyone in the Lehigh Valley. There's so much talent in our area and I want to give them the opportunity to pursue that."

Rajan also holds another goal regarding her show, particularly the impact it may have on her community.

"The Indian community isn't that large on campus, but I think it's still important to make sure we've got some kind of representation. So it's almost like I'm giving the diaspora some kind of a platform even if it's not the most conventional one, since I play more than only Indian music. But I'd say that's what makes the representation accurate; the Indian diaspora's listening to more than Bollywood music."

Rajan plans on continuing her career as a radio show host, hopefully branching out to other communities beyond Muhlenberg's campus.

"I'm hoping to collaborate with TapeSwap radio soon to start planning out ways to scope out talent on campus and also to connect with more of the college radio stations in the area."

If Microsoft Sam was your inspirational life coach:

Drew Dunn's comedy night out at Muhlenberg

By Ethan Forrer
Staff Writer

There are a couple different ways to keep an audience engaged during a stand-up performance, most of which revolve around dead silence: either to try and fill it or just embrace it. Drew Dunn's approach to comedy is one of self-aware awkwardness and honest zaniness, a style that has become quite popular with our generation. Thanks to three SIT members opening for Dunn the whole show was equivalent to a hand-full of friends taking turns as the "class clown": saying something unexpected and funny in a uniquely strange way then flashing an award smile to the rest of their millennial-and-under friends. As the name implies but not-so-often correctly done, the acts of the three students warmed the audience up to the partially cringe humor that only builds on itself as time goes on.

This was merely the kindling for what was to become a comedy bonfire; Elizabeth Templeman '20, Max Weiner '22 and Caroline Dunn '21 from SIT. Templeman started off vibrantly with her, somewhat worrisome, bit on bad medical practices and coffee vibrators. Weiner, fully ironically, was the middle act of the warm up trio with his well delivered bit on how much it sucks to be the middle child, stuck bonding with his mom over "My 600 Pound Life." After meeting her unrelated-long lost brother, Caroline Dunn (not to be confused with Drew Dunn) brought in some nifty innuendo alliteration, fully loading the bases for the clean-up hitter to bring it all home, so to speak.

> *Dunn, like most people in the business, sees the world in his own crazy but hilarious way. It just so happens that his perspective is similar to how us kids these days typically think.*

You know you're in for a truly odd treat when the comedian shouts out his arrival up on stage in a Babe-Ruth-calling-the-shot level of hyping-up. As a sign of the spirit and unpredictable routine that was to follow, Drew Dunn rides the previously built up tidal-wave, reaches the pinnacle, then crashing everything to a halt with a confession on the first time he hit and killed a beaver. Now, while the loss of a beaver was mourned and acknowledged, Dunn managed to end up turning the story into a deluded but well thought out narrative that left the audience in stitches, metaphorically speaking.

There are many particular aspects of Dunn's routine that really added to the overall quality of his performance. His most interesting quality however, were his accents he used. Starting off with his John Madden esc. color-commentary, Dunn's various voices only got more and more convoluted until he scared the audience with his dead-on impression of Microsoft Sam. For those who don't know, Microsoft Sam was basically the first text-to-speech voice, used on Windows 2000 and XP, and is effectively the terminator grandfather to programs like Siri and Alexa. If you've ever heard of Microsoft Sam before, you would know the term "terminator grandfather" is not used lightly; it is an unnerving voice, the type of voice that you would willingly sacrifice a couple goats to if it came out of your new, voice activated, microwave.

Dunn, like most people in the business, sees the world in his own crazy but hilarious way. It just so happens that his perspective is similar to how us kids these days typically think. Some examples of this "juvenile" humor that particularly jives with college students like us revolve around throw-away self-deprecation, innocent cynicism, and sarcastic patriotism. Periodically throughout the routine, Dunn jabs at his own Bieber-bowl-cut with isolated, possibly awkward, aside comments in a manner very similar to what your average, postmodern college student would do in social situations: acknowledging personal flaws without really fully addressing them. Effectively born into the internet, Dunn also talks about a passive distrust about the world and particularly technological advancements like the poorly thought out new voice password for phones or getting an Alexa and trying to freak out the government worker who's now listening in on his room. Finally, Dunn, like most people nowadays, sure likes to mock the hardcore blind supporters of America with an impressive redneck drawl or the US's obsession with being the best nation with a metaphorical footrace for first place consisting of just America.

Drew Dunn is a relatively new face on the comedy scene, only a few years older than the student body, but has already started making his mark, winning New Hampshire's Best New Comic Contest and the Boston Comedy Festival. Dunn was also one of a select few comedians to be featured in the Great American Comedy Festival, created in honor of Johnny Carson. Dunn can usually be found performing all over the country but will be settling down for a bit in preparation for the upcoming Just for Laughs festival. Check him out on the usual platforms but also on YouTube and Discord if you're interested in his alternative life as a gamer.

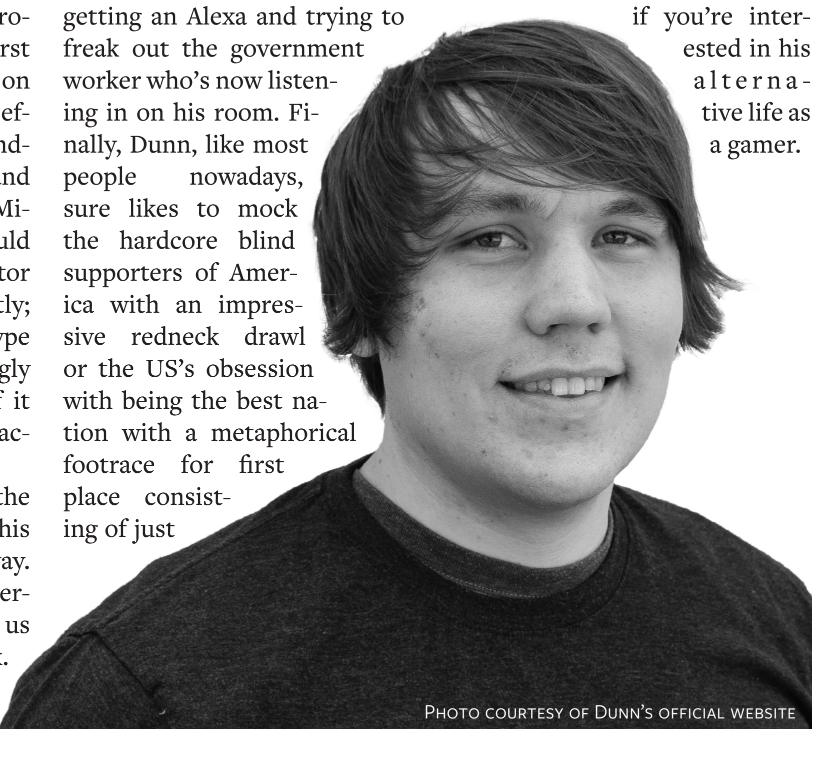


Photo courtesy of Dunn's official website

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY/OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

Editorial

The arrest of 21 Savage:

Much more than a meme

On Sunday, Feb. 3, Grammy-nominated rapper She'yaa Bin Abraham-Joseph, better known by his stage name 21 Savage, was taken into custody by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Atlanta, Ga.

Normally known for avoiding informational requests from the press, ICE reached out to CNN correspondent Nick Valencia to declare that Savage's "whole public persona is false. He actually came to the U.S. from the U.K. as a teen and overstayed his visa." This statement marked the launch of what was essentially a PR campaign on behalf of ICE to turn public opinion against the rapper, portraying him as a fraud and discounting his lived experience as a black man growing up in Atlanta as a lie.

Throughout Superbowl Sunday, Savage's arrest polarized Twitter; half using it as fodder for meme material, the other half to generate support for the father of three. After the initial shock passed, social media users and celebrities alike began to question the timing of the rapper's arrest.

ICE had plenty of opportunities to apprehend 21 Savage from the time of his visa expiration in 2006, so what motivated them to target him in 2019? Some speculate his performance of his Billboard Hot 100 hit "A Lot" on *The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon* on Jan. 28 attracted the attention of immigration officials when he added new bars to the song: *"been through some things so I can't imagine my kids stuck at the border / Flint still need water / People was innocent, couldn't get lawyers."*

ICE spokesman Bryan Cox justified the arrest in a statement to The Washington Post, claiming that Savage entered the U.S. in 2005 but became "unlawfully present" when his visa expired the following year. Only a minor at the time (Savage's team says he was seven years old, ICE claims he was fourteen), Savage joined the ranks of approximately two million children without clear legal status. Savage's lawyer, hired for him by rap mogul Jay-Z, insisted that the rapper "has never hid his immigration status from the U.S. government," and has in fact been waiting for approval of his U Visa since 2017. Moreover, as journalist and activist George M Johnson pointed out, there is "no way" that the Department of Homeland Security was unaware of the rapper's immigration status; he was arrested on felony drug charges back in 2014.

No matter ICE's justification for the arrest, the message they're sending is clear: nothing, not even celebrity status, protects immigrants (legal or otherwise) from deportation.

As we've seen in the news, especially over the past two years, ICE indiscriminately ejects law-abiding residents from the country at whim: mothers, fathers, business owners, construction workers, celebrities; it doesn't matter. It's not just Mexicans that are being targeted either, US residents of all nationalities have become targets of the organization.

As a black immigrant, 21 Savage's case is complicated even further, as many members of the African diaspora may not know their family's "true" country of origin due to the ongoing history of colonization of Africa. How can the West colonize an entire continent, completely isolate individuals from their families, threaten them into assimilation, and then have the audacity to ask for "papers"? Not to mention that a large percentage of the refugees seeking asylum in America are forced to do so as a direct consequence of America's meddling in their home countries, starting wars and staging coups for profit.

You're probably thinking "What am I supposed to do? None of that is my fault." You are not as powerless as you think. Don't succumb to fruitless political finger pointing and address the true issue: the abolition of ICE.

The idea is not as radical as you might think. ICE hasn't even reached its sixteenth birthday; it was birthed only after the 9/11 terrorist attacks under the noble premise of "fighting terrorism." Sixteen years of egregious human rights violations and family separations have rendered ICE nothing more a domestic terrorism organization. Justice will never be served until every family is reunited and compensated for the trauma ICE has inflicted on our country.

As of Tuesday, Feb.12, 21 Savage has been released on bail thanks to the hard work of activists like Clarissa M. Brooks and the organizations UndocuBlack, Black Lives Matter, Define American, BAJI, UWD and others. But the fight against ICE won't end until *everyone* puts in work, the burden cannot continue to fall on the shoulders of black activists alone. Start conversations with your peers. Donate to any of the above campaigns. Volunteer your time to social justice organizations. If you take nothing else away from this editorial, remember this: inaction is violence.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

Democrats fail to represent voter needs

By Kenzie Richards
Staff Writer

As each day makes it harder to survive under the crushing weight of job demands and bills, let alone to pay for a doctor′s visit, the majority of Americans show support for Medicare For All (M4A). Yet recently, Pennsylvania Representative Susan Wild, among many other first-term Democrats, took back the support for the bill she showed on the campaign trail by joining the New Democrat Coalition caucus, which is explicitly anti-M4A. Why do Democrats run on progressive policies, then quickly abandon them once they become elected? And why do so many of the Democratic presidential candidates hold views that would be considered right-wing in any normal country?

Other than obvious glaring issues with our political system like lobbying, the ideological answer to this broad question comes in one of the most insidious ideas in politics: that the most rational response to a problem can be found in the ″center″. Yet it appears that only one party believes in this logic. As Democrats keep pandering to Republicans, and Republicans keep moving farther and farther to the right, it′s no wonder voter turnout in America is so low. Neither party is speaking to the desires of a growing section of Americans that understand the way things are in our country are not only unfair but also untenable if our environmental standards keep loosening each day to benefit corporations.

Democrats do this to show that they′re ″reasonable″ and are willing to be ″team players.″ Yet bowing to the demands of Republicans isn′t reasonable, it′s grasping at straws to appeal to middle-class Americans that Democrats think for some reason are ashamed of the state their party is in. What incentive do they have to vote against a man who represents everything they want? If you really want to ban immigrants from America, you′re not going to care if the person who represents your interests isn′t ″respectable.″ That′s why he got elected. Democrats will continue to let Republicans run our country if they stop trying to appeal to a group of people who don′t exist instead of, you know, the people who actually would turn out and vote for them if they had good policy ideas.

If you′re still skeptical that some of the top names in the Democratic party are basically Republicans at heart, let′s take a look at some of the Democratic presidential candidates.

Cory Booker has received hundreds of thousands of dollars from pharmaceutical companies, voted against an amendment that would make prescription medication more affordable and worked with tech ghoul Mark Zuckerberg to ″improve″ Newark′s schooling system by funneling tons of money into private charter schools.

Kamala Harris was a District Attorney who tried to block the release of nonviolent offenders from overcrowded prisons because prisons would lose free labor. Felony conviction rose from 52 to 67 percent when she was serving. Many of those convictions were drug offenses, which disproportionately keep black and Latinx people in jail for nonviolent offenses -- the same people that she tried to keep in jail because, you know, it makes no sense to pay people a fair wage to make license plates when you can have them made by what is essentially slave labor, right?

Elizabeth Warren, who will most likely announce her run by the time of this article′s publishing, isn′t a Big Pharma stooge or ″California′s top cop″, but one has to wonder if the time she spends taking DNA tests could be better spent promoting her bills to regulate Wall Street. Thankfully, the momentum built by Medicare For All organizers is hopefully making support for the bill an essential platform for any Democrat with a brain.

For Susan Wild to take back her views on Medicare For All to fall in with the status quo in D.C. is lying at best and betrayal at worst. And she′s one of many Democrats who have failed to live up to their campaign trail promises, if they even try to appeal to voters on anything substantial anymore. And as far as the presidential candidates go, a new president won′t fix how far right our country has swung. When ″good″ politicians promise one thing and then do another, it′s easy to feel hopeless and like change is impossible. Making a change is easier than you think, though. There are tons of progressive groups a short distance outside the "Muhlenbubble," including the Lehigh Valley DSA (of which I am a member), POWER Lehigh Valley, Put People First PA and many more. If you are interested in this event, or getting involved in truly progressive politics please email me at mrrichards@muhlenberg.edu.

Ambitious, experienced and cunning: ‘becoming a hard ass’

By Ali Watson
Senior Staff Writer

Disclaimer: anyone going to see *Vice*, who considers themselves an admirer, fan or supporter of the former Vice President of the United States of America, Richard B. Cheney, should anticipate disappointment upon seeing the film and consider themselves forewarned from this point on.

Writer and director, Adam McKay, best known for his creation “The Big Short”, pulls no punches in the biopic of the somewhat infamous VP. For any fellow ‘Big Short’ fans, I can reassure you that the same comedic timing, fourth wall breaks, and hyperbole exists — but they manifest in a different way... most obviously in that *Vice* follows the actions of one individual character rather than a larger event.

McKay’s illustration of Cheney is critical, at best, and he is not shy about leaving his opinions, as a private citizen, exposed in the narration of the controversial politician. *Vice* is not, and does not try to be, a biographical film. Instead, McKay’s narration on Cheney is used as a larger American political commentary told through the life and career of one of the country’s most influential politicians. This can be seen, in particular, in the significance McKay draws from the Vice President’s legacy.

In fairness, McKay is also cautious and quick to disclose in the beginning of the film, that he has taken his own creative liberties in illustrating Cheney’s life...

What makes the premise of *Vice* so interesting is simultaneously its biggest creative challenge. To state the obvious: Dick Cheney is a notoriously private person. This is not to say that Cheney, or his family, shy away from the media, because this certainly isn’t true. Yet, there are huge gaps of information regarding Cheney’s life, both professionally and personally, that the public has limited *confirmed* knowledge of.

Case in point: the ‘deliberate’ vs. ‘accidental’ shooting of Harry Whittington, in Texas, during a hunting excursion (the anniversary of which was earlier this week) for which Whittington apologized for, and Cheney did not. The Whittington shooting, in particular, is awing in part because of how ridiculous it is (*because we can all kind of agree that Cheney, an active sportsman* [*fly fisher and hunter*] *is unlikely to have honestly and accidentally shot someone from such a close range ... right?*).

Historically, Cheney has made it a habit of being dismissive and defensive when questioned by political peers or the media on issues of state or on his own life. So, in short, McKay’s decision to make a movie about Cheney is not at all that surprising. But let’s complicate that...

Cheney, despite being considered an influential leader within the GOP for the past few decades, is not that popular even within his own party. As a political science student (a.k.a. nerd), I would argue that he isn’t, actually, a ‘true’ conservative — mostly because I, admittedly, buy into McKay’s depiction of Cheney seeking power for individual reasons rather than ideological ones (eg. seeking to expand ‘the power of the executive’ [aka “Unitary Executive”] during George W. Bush’s administration, a fairly, anti-conservative initiative to pursue).

Furthermore, Cheney is not the most charismatic politician to have emerged in modern American history — and this was a main criticism of him when he was campaigning for the Senate and later for president.

Now that we know how the story ends (*cough* the Iraq War *cough* Halliburton *cough*) hindsight leads to a more negative opinion of Cheney and his career. This is marked by the rise and fall of his influence during the Bush administration, or more so, how the American populous turned on the once lauded ‘experienced’ and ‘knowledgeable’ Cheney, who was arguably seen as a *check* on presidential power for Bush (rather than a predatorial figure seeking to expand it).

Film critic, A.O. Scott’s, take on *Vice* as “liberal ‘rage-bait’” and an oversimplification of all the problems facing the United States as direct consequences to the former vice president are fair. As I said before, the movie is not kind to Cheney... which is sort of inevitable since the concept of the film is about one individual, but that was also a deliberate creative decision ... and sort of the point.

It’s not an exaggeration to say that Christian Bale embodies Cheney in every which way in *Vice*. But the biggest creative feat for both Bale and McKay was still making Cheney a sympathetic character––(again, no spoilers)—even greater when they make him a pitiful one. This is ultimately the deepest cut McKay administers.

It’s the questions McKay raises on governing, pride, ideology, family and ambition that make *Vice* a dynamic film. Yes, lead actors in *Vice* and McKay himself have openly said that they hope the film will encourage Americans to become more civically engaged; but McKay does so in a specific way. Even in the title, he is aiming, successfully or not, to ask broader questions on humanity and is appealing to the audiences’ capacity for empathy both toward and against the vice president and his decisions. Furthermore, he challenges us to apply those same questions we ask, in hindsight, to a once powerful man, to the establishment within our government that still remains. I would argue Cheney is merely a vehicle for broader criticisms McKay has with the U.S.

Simply, anyone seeing *Vice* who leaves thinking it was ‘just a rant’ missed the point.

GRAPHIC OPINIONS

Dead in Canon–but still worth the read

By Melissa Reph
Online Content Editor

There’s a couple of my interests that can be traced back to one year or another at summer camp. Harry Potter, *Young Justice* and this week’s topic: ‘Roommates.’

‘Roommates’ can be described and categorized a couple different ways; web comic, goofy, clever, meta, absurd, fanfiction.

When a friend at camp discovered that I liked comics, musicals and fantasy novels she excitedly asked if I had ever heard of ‘Roommates’ and when I admitted that I had not she began to animatedly describe it in the way only someone who really enjoys something can. She explained that it was a fancomic by AsheRhyder published on the website DeviantArt taking characters mainly from musicals and movies and throwing them into an apartment building together. I was curious to say the least.

The main premise is that the entire comic exists in some pocket dimension following the characters’ stories where they’re aware their stories have ended and yet they continue to exist and now lead semi-normal lives. They teach or go to a university, have building wide barbecues and road trips. As well as epic fantasy battles, murder mysteries and zombie apocalypses. Not to mention a Dead in Canon support group since so many of them are, well, dead.

There’s a pretty decent chance that your favorite character, from Steve Rogers to Angel from *RENT* to Legolas and the Doctor, are going to make an appearance. What really makes the the comic interesting, beyond the goofy antics and fourth wall breaks and visual gags, is the analytical commentary the artist makes on the nature of stories, antagonists, redemption arcs and fandom.

The four main characters are all the “bad guys” in their respective stories although they are objectively not bad guys. As the antagonist Javert (*Les Misérables*), Erik the Phantom (*Phantom of the Opera*), Jareth the Goblin King (*Labyrinth*) and Commodore James Norrington (*Pirates of the Caribbean*) are all portrayed as the villain of the story; the ones who pursue the law breaking heroes, the ones who have been scorned their whole lives and try to find love by kidnapping the young heroines.

They are thrown into an apartment together and attempt to learn from their pasts and help each other to become better. The different story arcs interwoven with comedy set them as heroes and force them to confront their pasts and try to make a better choice. With liberal teasing from Christine, Sarah, Éponine and Elizabeth of course.

Roommates looks at the nature of characters and stories in other ways too, beyond just showing the humanity within an antagonist. It looks at how adaptations can waterdown a character, using a fantasy arc to show how Glinda the Good possesses very little power since each new adaption removes her further and further from her original and waters her down each time and it is this new, lesser version which then sticks in the public consciousness.

It looks at myths and magic in stories. How the family trees of gods and legends work. The fears a myth or a legend or a character might have. If you’re already dead or immortal what is there to fear? What is magic’s fear? Disbelief.

A story that began by pulling characters out of their stories and giving them lives of their own ends with an examination of if that is even a possibility. With the concept of Story being anthropomorphized and turned on the characters, are they able to fight it? When they can only exist in the confines of a story? And can it be a new story or are they doomed to fall back into the roles they were given?

These are questions posed within the story. Interwoven with scenes featuring the characters literally breaking the fourth wall and gags featuring Javert’s blood pressure being pushed to its limits with run-ins with Gavroche and the Artful Dodger or Enjolras rallying the Sharks and Jets on campus. Or Jareth and Loki having a trickster off. Or the magic department led by Gandalf doing battle against the robotics department run by Tony Stark, again.

In all it’s a bit weird and at first a bit niche as the artist focuses on her favored stories which can vary wildly from *Repo! The Genetic Opera* to *House* or even DC Comics but it’s more than likely a character you know and love is thrown in there somewhere. If not, it’s a good place to look for suggestions as I’ve read some great books and watched some awesome movies over the years after characters have shown up.

I’ll admit, I was leery at first when my friend suggested it to me way back in 2012. I hadn’t read fanfiction before and while I loved *Phantom* and *Les Mis* wouldn’t call myself an expert or even a fan of the four characters who make up the main cast of the comic. Since then, my appreciation for the stories they’re from and the characters themselves have grown immensely. I’ve come to view stories more critically and search out complex characters. It’s been fun to look at the gray when we are so trained to only see the black and white, ‘Roommates’ taught me that gray makes it all the more interesting.

‘Roommates’ by AsheRhyder was started in 2005 and finally had the final page posted earlier this year. With over 600 pages, diving in can seem a bit daunting but the concept and commentary is worth the time. A sister comic was also created called ‘Girls Next Door’ by Pika-la-Cynique and follows the adventures of Sarah and Christine and adds in characters like Luna Lovegood and Edmund Pevensie. Both can be found on DeviantArt.

Softball psyched for the Sunshine State

The first pitch of the 2019 softball schedule will be thrown in Kissimmee, Fla. as part of the team's spring break trip

By Alex Blum
Sports Editor

The 2019 Mules softball team is rounding third and headed to Florida. Their season will officially begin in Kissimmee, Fla. as they prepare to partake in THE Spring Games.

Following a flat 2018 campaign, eight freshmen have come in to fill the void of six graduated players. The 2019 squad is eager to put Muhlenberg softball back on the map and complete its first winning season since 2015. However, in order in to accomplish those goals, the squad is embracing team building tactics in order to create an atmosphere of family. Their trip to Florida plays a large role in creating that sense of family.

Although THE Spring Games begin on Mar. 2, where the Mules face off against the Milwaukee School of Engineering, the Mules' season starts much sooner as they must prepare and ready themselves for the season. For Sarah Karmazyn '22, the team has already made great strides in starting their season off strong, as they have been preparing for both the Florida trip and beyond. "In preparing for our trip, we have been having intense lifts, conditionings and practices six days a week. We have all really seen growth. I think this will be a great year for us if we keep it up as a team and stay together."

> **"I think this will be a great year for us if we keep it up as a team and stay together."**

With all the training that is going on inside the gym, it is all building up to the moment when the team finally steps foot out onto the field down in the Florida sunshine to show everyone how dominant they can be. "I am really excited to just get outside and start playing. This offseason and preseason have been a lot of fun, getting to watch the team develop and really come together. I think everyone is ready to just get on the field already."

As the eight new freshmen are on the verge of officially beginning their collegiate careers, the role of the upperclassmen as mentors is crucial for the long-term success of Muhlenberg softball. "The upperclassmen have definitely been great mentors for us. We come in having not much knowledge of how the system works and having them to teach us the principles behind Muhlenberg softball is incredible because in the end, we are representing the program as a whole not only on the field but in the classroom."

While the excitement builds for the anticipated season, the opportunity to bond and build a family is available in their trip to the Sunshine State. Such an opportunity, much like the women's volleyball team had on their trip to Minnesota, is extremely important to the success of the program. Kristina Qualben '19 strongly believes in the importance of such a roadtrip to get the season underway. "The trip is vital to our program because it kickstarts our season in that it's the first time we actually get outside and see what we can do. It helps us identify the things we need to work on when we get back to school before we play conference games. It also gives us the opportunity to bond with each other and form relationships on the field before getting into conference games," said Qualben.

"The trip to Florida is one of the most exciting parts of the season. It's awesome because all we have to worry about that week is playing softball and it's a great break from school. The time spent there as a team definitely brings us together because we're with each other 24/7 hanging out and playing the game we love," said Qualben. "For the freshmen, it's a great learning experience because you get that week to adjust to college level play before jumping into conference games. After being cooped up in the field house for the month of February, it's great to finally get out and play in some nice weather too."

> **"The trip is vital to our program because it kickstarts our season."**

Though the palm trees and the warm sun may add a nice aesthetic, the team maintains a goal of building camaraderie in Allentown, Pa. too.

"One of the team building activities we do is the DOM1N4TE Course. The course is a combination of stations where we are challenged mentally and physically. We're divided into teams and are tasked to work through obstacles together as a unit. It's a great team building exercise as you get to test your ability and get to know your teammates on a different level," Qualben explained.

Traveling towards the playoffs

With the regular season ending, Dan Gaines '22 leads a youth-dominated team in hopes of locking up a Centennial Conference playoff birth

By Alex Horowitz
Senior Staff Writer

Although the 2018-19 men's basketball season is nearly over for the Muhlenberg Mules, the team has a bright future ahead in the coming years with a loaded freshman class. Currently, the team sits right around the .500 mark with a 12-11 record this season. However, with a total of seven first-year players on this year's roster, the team will be left in good hands following the departure of 2019's two graduating seniors, Brendan Hughes and Erik Werheim. One such freshman player who has stood out this year is guard Dan Gaines.

Gaines, who hails from Colts Neck, N.J., is already a two-time Centennial Conference Player of the Week in his first season on the court for the Mules. In 23 games played thus far this season with an average of 33.6 minutes per game, Gaines has posted stellar numbers. He is putting up 14.6 points per game, 4.7 rebounds per game, and 3.9 assists per game. Despite being one of the youngest members of the roster, how has Gaines been able to maintain such a high level of play on a roster with several talented upperclassmen as well?

"I was able to sustain a high level of play because of the leadership and confidence my teammates continually give me day in and day out," said Gaines. "Whether it be Brendan [Hughes], Erik, Matt, or anyone else, they consistently push me to play my best every day in practice and that has translated into the games."

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Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Gaines works past a Moravian defender on Dec. 15, 2018.

Playing on a team with just one junior and two seniors, Gaines has already been able to step up for the Mules, both on the court as a basketball player and as a team leader as well. While he credits the upperclassmen for helping him adjust to the game of college basketball, it's enabled Gaines to take on some of these qualities as well, typically seen by just the more veteran members of the roster.

Additionally, the coaching staff, led by second-year head coach Kevin Hopkins, has given every and all opportunities for the freshman, including Gaines, to reach their highest potential on the men's squad.

"The coaching staff has guided me and helped me grow as a player mainly because of how they always hold me accountable, whether that is in practices or games," said the first-year player out of Colts Neck High School. "If I mess up a play or make a bad decision, they will point it out and tell me how I can improve upon my mistakes. This has kept me focused on becoming the best player I can be."

Considering the sheer amount of first and second year players on the Mules roster, any success seen this season is only expected to improve over the coming years. The team is lucky to have a young, new coaching staff that is leading a young group of men determined to win. Gaines and his teammates have proven this season that the future is certainly promising for the basketball program.

"I think the future of this team is bright because of the depth at each position," he said. "Whether it be dealing with injuries or giving someone a quick break during games, anyone on the team is capable of coming in and contributing. In addition, the leadership from the senior class has taught everyone what it takes to win at this level."

The men's basketball team concludes its regular season schedule with a home game against Gettysburg College on Saturday, Feb. 16, at four p.m.

Win-and-in

Women's basketball likely to make the Centennial Conference playoffs with just one more win

By Brandon Kossin
Senior Staff Writer

The Muhlenberg women's basketball team is closing out the latter half of their conference schedule. Over this past week, the Mules played four games, coming away victorious in two of them coming away with wins against the Haverford Fords and the Washington College Shorewomen.

The Mules are looking to end the year strong in their final two matchups as they take on Ursinus and Franklin & Marshall. The ladies currently sit in fifth place within the Centennial Conference with a 11-7 record, just ahead of Dickinson who are 9-9. In order to clinch a spot in the Centennial Conference playoffs, the Mules need close out the year with wins.

In order to be the best team the Mules are capable of being, they need to improve upon the weaknesses that have hurt them thus far. When asked about the team's current weaknesses, guard Sara Dilly '19 and guard, Emily O'Mahoney '20 had a lot to say. They said that their issues stem from a combination of not coming out of the locker room with consistent energy, and lack of rebounding on the offensive glass. This has been an issue that has plagued the Mules for a majority of the season, which has ultimately led to unfortunate losses in particular games.

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

O'Mahoney '20 looks to make a play against Johns Hopkins

If the Mules plan on making a run in the Centennial Conference playoffs, they need to improve upon the mistakes they have made throughout the season.

"The team has been working very hard and has been learning from the mistakes they made in the past. If they can take what they've learned and put it together at the right time, there is a good chance they will make a run," said O'Mahoney.

Dilly also added that the team will be more prepared once they enter the playoff race. "We'll make a run in the playoffs because any team we play will be our third time and we'll be better prepared to handle them defensively and execute our offensive plays smarter."

Another reason for the Mules to be confident going into the playoffs is because of their unity and chemistry. They work hard on the court and care about making each other better. "Our team chemistry is our biggest strength. We get along on and off the court really well and that allows us to keep a positive team attitude even if things may not be going our way," said Dilly.

This is a very important quality to have as it allows the squad to maintain their composure when things are not necessarily going the way they want them to. Dilly added that another strong suit of the Mules is their understanding of their offensive and defensive plays. It is a rare sight when any player seems lost at any point throughout a play.

This Muhlenberg women's basketball squad is one that could be very interesting to watch come the postseason. Despite being in the middle of the pack in the latter half of the season, this is a team that could be a real dangerous opponent for any of the Centennial Conference teams. If they are able to correct their minor weaknesses and build on their strengths, there is no goal that this team cannot achieve.

Back in the swing of things

Golf ready to hit the links as soon as the snow melts

By Samantha Brenner
Contributing Writer

The Muhlenberg College golf team has been anxiously gearing up and waiting for the start of the season. After a rough season last semester, both the men's and women's are optimistic and looking forward to bouncing back.

With that competitive edge in mind, many of the golfers are looking for a change in the upcoming spring season. Coming off of the fall season, the entire team is looking forward to taking that energy and turning it into titles.

Last season, the women's team ended with a win at the Lady Dutchmen Fall Invitational, a tournament held in the Lehigh Valley. With the weather getting warmer, and the hope of a snowless rest of the year, both the men's and women's golf teams are eager to get back onto the greens and out of the training room.

"Hopefully all this snow will subside and we will be able to get out onto the course soon," said Aine Filler '19. With the difficult weather, the team has been relying on the indoor simulator, allowing them to practice at any golf course throughout the country. Filler aims high, wanting her final season as a Muhlenberg golfer to be a memorable one. "Nothing would be better than rounding out my college career with a championship win and a trip down to Nationals in late May."

For the men's team, the goal is exactly the same. The success for the men's team is something Ben Lieberman '19 plans to see. After not playing the fall season due to injury, Lieberman plans to jump right back into where he left off. "We have a young team but everyone can play, and knows how to win, so we're looking forward to a successful spring." Lieberman has faith in the talent that his team holds, aiming high for the spring semester.

"Hopefully all this snow will subside and we will be able to get out onto the course soon."

With the same mentality in mind, Coach John Librick is helping the players mentally and physically gear up for the spring season. "None of the players were happy with the Fall golf season results. I know they can improve and they believe this as well."

Coach Librick, who wants his team to rise above the slump they were in, understands that golf is also a mental sport. "Tiger Woods said it best...no matter how good you get you can always get better. Golfers need to motivate themselves with positive self talk." Librick stresses the importance of a positive outlook going into the spring season and wants his players to push themselves and attain their full potential.

Librick has high expectations, which is no surprise. He knows the talent that his team holds, and understands that with just some self confidence and practice, they can achieve anything.

Personal goals are helping both Lieberman and Filler as well as Coach Librick. Both Lieberman and Filler are aiming high, wanting to use the competitive edge of the conference they are in to win some titles. While Coach Librick also shares the same desires as his players, he intends on helping each player strengthen their own game and make them feel more comfortable on the greens.

As the days of practicing with the simulator grow smaller, the men's and women's golf teams look forward to working hard and earning those division titles.

Coach Librick as well everyone else is excited to see how the team advances and are ready to see just how far they can go this spring season.

Right: Lieberman '19 is confident in his young team and is eager to back out onto the golf course this spring.

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Hauling home hardware

Three wrestlers win gold medals at CC Championships

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

By Noah Brill
Contributing Writer

On Feb. 9, the Muhlenberg wrestling team traveled to the United States Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, N.Y., where they won two out of three matches and placed fourth in the Centennial Conference Championships. This comes on the heels of a historic year for the Mules as the team broke the school's single-season wins record. While there are many factors that contributed to the team's success, there were several notable catalysts, including strong performances by several members of the team and the leadership of second-year coach Jason Mclean '01.

"Coach McLean is a fighter. He's all about overcoming adversity and making every match a dogfight no matter who we're up against," said team captain Austin Sherman '20. Sherman also noted that McLean's devotion to maintaining a positive spirit around the team makes him unique. "The one thing I believe that really separates McLean from the many of the coaches I've spent time with in the past is his ability to always maintain a positive attitude and put a positive spin on everything that happens in a day of competition." The veteran added that his coach's own calmness enabled him to maintain his own composure, as he still is nervous before matches despite his seniority with the team. "I knew I had a tough kid in the third or fourth place match. McLean kept me calm and focused and told me to only focus on scoring and giving 100 percent of myself every second of the match."

"Energy, enthusiasm, effort," McLean said. "If we want people to believe in us, we have to believe first. Believe that we belong among the best in the Centennial and compete. We turned a few corners but needed to turn another." This season was particularly sweet for the team's leader, as the wins record was set in his senior year at Muhlenberg 18 years ago, which he described as "the beginning of a great run for Muhlenberg wrestling."

Captain Scott Schaeffer '20, who has been on the team for the entirety of its turnaround, never had any qualms about this particular team's ability to succeed, even in spite of season ending injuries to wrestlers such as Gregory Baum '22 and Angelo Mahaffey '22. "This year at the Conference Championships the team was much more experienced and bought into the program itself. This year, eight of the guys that competed at conferences were upperclassmen. We have been around this program and have given it everything we can in order to make it succeed. When we were freshman this wrestling team was thought of as an afterthought around the conference."

Schaeffer also felt a certain sense of camaraderie on this year's team in particular, and it seems as though one of the best parts of the season was how they accomplished so much in spite of the fact that they were viewed as underdogs heading into the year. "We have known what we were capable of and have just been waiting to show everybody else how good we really are. Another area that helped us this year is the bond we all share. Whenever one of our guys was wrestling, there was an entire team in the corner cheering them on and showing them that we had their back win or lose. That allows each and every wrestler to be able to give their all out there on the mat for not only themselves but for their team as well."

In addition to the masterful performances by upperclassmen, including Jimmy Fratantoni '19, who could not compete in last year's competition due to injury, won his first tournament in the 174 lb class, Dylan Schwartz '20, who came up short last year, surely did not disappoint in the 165 lb class this year, and Gennaro Cerminara '19. Cerminara, who competed at the 197 class, won his second consecutive title, becoming the first since Matt Loesch to win multiple CC titles. The team's younger stars also rose to the occasion, particularly Matthew Ferrante '22, who competed at the 125 lb class.

The team will grapple in the Northeast/Mideast Futures Tournament on Sunday, Feb. 17 before finishing their season on Feb. 23 and 24 at the NCAA Mideast Regional in Brockport, N.Y..

Coming up this week in SPORTS

Feb. 16 through Feb. 17

Track and Field
Keogh Invitational
Saturday, Feb. 16 @ 10:30 am
Haverford, PA

Women's Basketball
Muhlenberg vs Franklin & Marshall
Saturday, Feb. 16 @ 2:00 pm
Memorial Hall

Men's Basketball
Muhlenberg vs Gettysburg
Saturday, Feb. 16 @ 4:00 pm
Memorial Hall

Wrestling
Northeast/Mideast Futures Tournament
Sunday, Feb. 17 @ 9:00 am
Deitrich Field House

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Read inside:

Meet Steven Smith ‘19, artist of the week and student curator

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2019
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NEWS

Students weigh in on their experiences and observations surrounding JUULs and vaping on campus, and the many complex opinions surrounding them.

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ARTS & CULTURE

Eve Ensler’s *The Vagina Monologues* once again takes the stage — engaging students in an open dialogue over the vagina.

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OP/ED

Will Wamser ‘20 comes out against a capella, finding it in all forms uninteresting and wants Muhlenberg to have higher standards for entertainment.

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SPORTS

Multiple Muhlenberg offices extend their financial support to help a unique athlete compete on a national level this weekend at Ohio Univeristy.

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New Sustainability Studies major gets green light from faculty

Read more on page 3

Photo Courtesy of Office of Communications

Changes to Title IX: What they mean for Muhlenberg

By Julie Weiner
Contributing Writer

Muhlenberg’s Title IX coordinator Lin-Chi Wang looked at the audience and said with a shy smile, “This is my first time moderating. I did some research online, so if this crashes and burns, blame the Internet!” She wanted to set the tone for the topic for discussion among Muhlenberg students, faculty and a panel of experts: proposed changes by the Department of Education for Title IX. “My sense,” Wang said, “is that it will be a positive, robust and dynamic discussion.”

Held on Jan. 24, the panel’s purpose was to familiarize students with a few of the proposed changes and tell them how they can submit feedback to the Department of Education, but the deadline for comments has passed.

Title IX is a federal law dating back to 1972, and its original purpose was to address sex discrimination in collegiate sports. It has since spread to cover discrimination on the basis of race and ethnicity, disability and sexual identity, and as panelist Karen Galbraith ’95 pointed out, stretches to primary and secondary schools. Every institution that receives federal funding—public or private—must adhere to these new guidelines if passed.

One of the most controversial new guidelines will require colleges to use “due process” to discipline people accused of discrimination under Title IX. Muhlenberg already has a comprehensive judicial process complete with a panel of students and faculty, which the Dean of Students Office oversees. The Judicial Panel asks the respondent and witnesses questions, and the respondent has the option to cross-examine witnesses. In Muhlenberg’s system, lawyers are not permitted to participate in hearings, and the complainant does not have to attend. The new guidelines require both complainants and respondents to attend a live hearing where an adviser for both parties provides cross-examination. This adviser can be a faculty member provided by the school, like they are at Muhlenberg, but could also be a lawyer. Alternatively, at any time prior to a determination of responsibility, the educational institution can facilitate an informal resolution process, such as mediation. This also is an option within Muhlenberg’s judicial process if both the respondent and complainant agree to it.

Photo Courtesy of Office of Communications

Title IX Director Lin-Chi Wang speaks at the “Know Your Rights” panel on Jan. 24.

“When I hear the term *due process*, I immediately think of the constitutional definition,” said panelist Frank Roth, legal counsel at Lehigh University. The Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments provide equal protection to all citizens and mandate that the government cannot interfere. “We are not a court system. We are an educational institution that will adopt procedures,” added Roth.

Due process, Roth said, was not the right way to tackle Title IX violations, especially in private institutions. The new

see **Title IX** page 3

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

Monday, February 11
Sick employee - 10:55 a.m.
Report of sick employee in Haas. Muhlenberg EMS responded, employee refused further treatment or transport.

Tuesday, February 12
Property damage - 7:24 p.m.
Report of damage to lamp post near Seegers Union. Plant Operations was notified to repair it.

Sick student - 8:15 p.m.
Report of sick student at Walz Hall. Muhlenberg EMS responded, student refused further treatment or transport.

Noise complaint - 11:29 p.m.
Report of noise complaint in Benfer Hall, upon arrival nothing could be found.

Wednesday, February 13
Injured student - 12:49 a.m.
Report of injured student at East Hall. Muhlenberg EMS responded, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety.

Property damage - 7:00 a.m.
Report of damage to an ipad charging cable in Prosser Hall. Investigation to continue.

Injured employee -10:30 p.m.
Report of injured employee at the Village. Employee refused further treatment or transport.

Thursday, February 14
Fire - 8:05 a.m.
Report of minor smoke and flame in fryer at Seegers, Plant Operations notified to respond, no further incident.

Lost property - 10:30 a.m.
Report of lost charger and plug at Prosser.

Friday, February 15
Drug violation - 12:55 a.m.
Report of possession of drug paraphernalia on Benfer Drive. Items brought to Campus Safety and placed in evidence locker.

Lost property - 4:00 p.m.
Report of lost earrings in Life Sports Center.

Sick student - 11:36 p.m.
Report of sick student on Liberty Street. Student transported to hospital by Campus Safety.

Drug violation - 11:40 p.m.
Report of marijuana possession at Roberston Hall. Individuals identified and spoken to. No further incident.

Saturday, February 16
Injured student - 1:32 a.m.
Report of injured student in Seegers. Muhlenberg EMS responded, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety.

Sick student - 2:55 a.m.
Report of sick student at South Hall, student refused further treatment or transport.

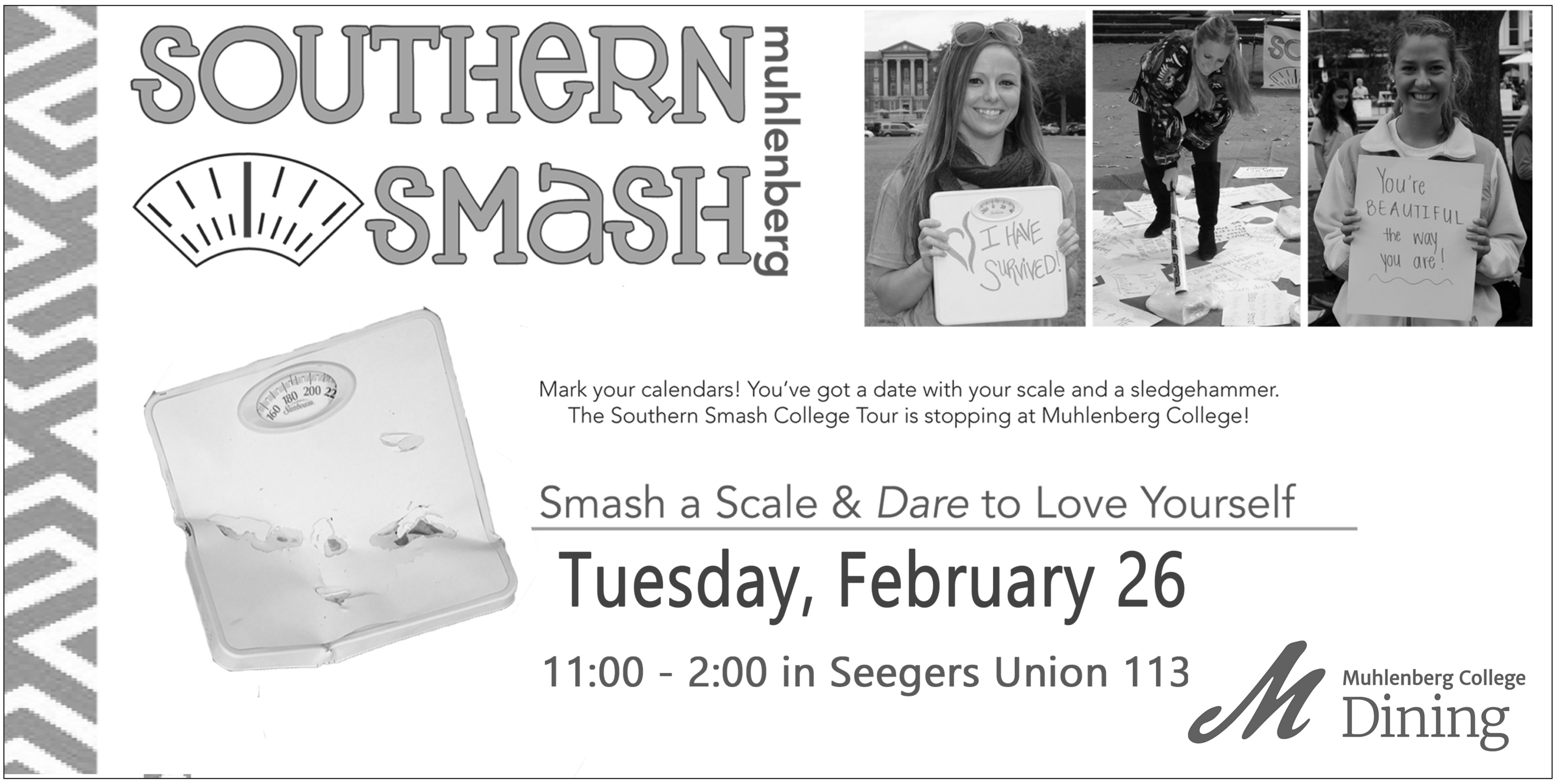
Sick student - 1:00 p.m.
Report of sick student at Trexler Pavillion circle. Muhlenberg EMS responded, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety.

Electrical problem - 10:30 p.m.
Report of problem with outlet at Prosser Hall. Work order was submitted for Plant Operations.

Sunday, February 17
Alcohol violation - 1:07 a.m.
Report of alcohol violation at Liberty Street. Individual identified and spoken to. Allentown EMS responded and student was transported to hospital by Campus Safety.

Injured student - 1:39 a.m.
Report of injured student at Prosser Hall. Student was transported to hospital by Campus Safety.

Sick student - 2:00 p.m.
Report of stick student at an off-campus location. Student was transported to hospital by Campus Safety.



Mark your calendars! You've got a date with your scale and a sledgehammer.
The Southern Smash College Tour is stopping at Muhlenberg College!

Smash a Scale & *Dare* to Love Yourself

Tuesday, February 26

11:00 - 2:00 in Seegers Union 113

Muhlenberg College
Dining

Sustainability Studies major to be offered to students beginning Fall 2019

By Sydney Coplin
News Editor

Since 2003, Muhlenberg has offered a minor in Sustainability Studies--a six course curriculum that delves into theory and representation, practice, community and solutions in relation to sustainability. With interest in the discipline increasing, leading many students to create their own self-designed majors within this area of study, an unanimous faculty vote on Friday, Feb.15 has now led to the approval of an official Sustainability Studies major, which will be available for the Fall 2019 semester.

The approval of the major comes at a time where sustainability has already been at the forefront of recent Muhlenberg news, following the STARS Gold rating for its commitment to sustainability awarded to the campus from the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) earlier in the year.

Richard Niesenbaum, Professor of Biology and Director of Sustainability Studies, has been leading the efforts in developing this major.

"I worked with an advisory board of faculty from different departments to develop the major and revise the minor starting in December 2018. It went to the Faculty Curriculum Committee in January 2019," explains Niesenbaum. "Through constructive dialog with the committee, chairs of departments that offer courses in the major and the Provost, the proposed curriculum went through some revision, but in my opinion this process benefited the program...all of the changes made were positive resulting in a truly innovative major."

"The field of sustainability studies is rapidly expanding... [which] is an indicator of society's progress ..."

The Bachelor of Arts in Sustainability Studies will require 12 course units; the first three foundational courses will consist of coursework in Environmental Science, Sociology and Economics. Students will then take six more courses. Two courses from across each of the three areas of Human Environment Connections, Social Justice and Social Movements; and Economics, Development and Business. The final three units will come from two courses in Policy and Practice, and then the CUE in Sustainable Solutions.

"The major allows students to more fully develop expertise in the core areas, and integrate these disparate areas at the upper level," says Niesenbaum, distinguishing between the benefits of the minor compare to the major.

While there is a clear distinction between the already existing Sustainability Studies minor versus the upcoming major, the line between Sustainability Studies and the similar field of Environmental Science may be harder to grapple with.

"Environmental Science is an important field that primarily focuses on the scientific study of the the environment and environmental problems with the majority of the requirements in the sciences," explains Niesenbaum. "The required courses in Sustainability Studies are more evenly distributed among the disciplinary divisions of the college and requires students to then integrate the difference perspectives and ways of knowing in upper level courses."

"Focus areas include study of the environment in relation to human needs, wants, and activity; social justice and social movements; economics development, and business; and policy and practice," adds Niesenbaum. "The program explores and integrates issues broadly related to sustainability, and how they impact and are addressed at local, national and global levels; and specifically addresses the intersectional nature of environmental and social issues in relation to human difference, power relations, and equity."

"The program explores and integrates issues ... and how they are addressed at local, national and global levels."

The interdisciplinary approach to learning about and engaging with sustainability studies, Niesenbaum explains, paves the way for countless career opportunities in business, policy and law, visual and performing arts, urban design, development, agriculture and even the Peace Corps, among others.

"The field of sustainability studies is rapidly expanding, and some have argued that this is an indicator of society's progress towards the goal of sustainable development," notes Niesenbaum. "A recent analysis has found that the rate of research publication in sustainability studies is growing almost twice as fast as the average across all research disciplines, around 7.6 percent annually. Increasingly all key areas of sustainability are being addressed across the globe. Given the magnitude, complexity, and global nature of problems that we face, the education of students that are capable of working in interdisciplinary, internationally collaborative fields that employ a systems approach to sustainability is vital. The aim of this program is to accomplish exactly that."

Students interested in learning more about the Sustainability Studies Major are encouraged to meet with Dr. Niesenbaum this semester.

thea
hultz
Madison Reisler
Frank Roth, Esq.
Karen
Galbraith

Photo Courtesy of Office of Communications

Panelists Lin-Chi Wang, Lanethea Mathews-Schultz, Madison Reisler, Frank Roth, and Karen Galbraith discuss the revisions to Title IX.

from **Title IX** page 1

regulations will require schools to spend more resources on that when they could allocate them to something more needed. The possibility for lawyers to be "advisers" is also an issue for complainants and respondents who cannot afford a lawyer.

The panelists took issue with the idea that for the complainant, the options are to either settle for a mediation or get cross examined. Karen Galbraith '95, who works for the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, noted "being cross-examined is hugely revictimizing and traumatic for everybody involved in that process." She also expressed concern about the guidelines for protection of survivors, which state that protections cannot put "undue burden" on either the respondent or complainant. For example, a no-contact order is mutual; if a respondent sees the complainant in the dining hall, they must leave, and vice versa.

Madison Reisler '19, a member of peer education group Voices of Strength, provided further insight from a student's perspective. She was hopeful that counselors could attend hearings as the survivor's adviser, or as emotional support if they cannot advocate. Further, she noted that many survivors want the name of perpetrators of harassment or assault to be public knowledge but policy does not allow it. At many schools, the students do it themselves. It becomes a safety issue for victims because people will not be aware of perpetrators. The proposed guidelines offer so much protection for complainants that respondents may feel less safe. The best thing to do, she said, is to ask survivors what their ideal outcome is.

Wang described Title IX as "a daily balancing act. Every interaction, communication, and consideration is a balancing act in how do we support people on campus who are experiencing something and how do we also uphold a fair and reliable and equitable process simultaneously? Is that possible in the situation? It's always a case-by-case analysis."

Attendee Chloe Gravereaux '19 was thankful that panelists acknowledged Title IX's "role is to make sure the college is doing the most they possibly can," and reiterated the importance of students' awareness of their rights and resources on campus.

Emily Segan '19, when asked after the discussion about her concerns for Muhlenberg under the new guidelines, replied: "That it will become an even more rape-friendly campus."

Reisler later suggested schools adopt a zero tolerance policy to "ensure people know this isn't permissible. The school needs to stand by that gender inequality is behind these injustices. If the campus takes it seriously, the culture will follow."

BergBeat
magazine

Berg Beat Magazine is a special publication of The Muhlenberg Weekly. The articles are student generated, but edited by a faculty editor as part of a semester-long reporting project.

How much will you risk for a taste of heaven?

By Casey Elkin
Contributing Writer

Scents of subtle fruit and sharp mint filled a room on the second floor of Prosser. An RA or campus safety might assume the aromas come from Febreze, but they come from no other device than the JUUL. A JUUL is a sleek and small vaping device, almost scentless and impossible to detect and they have taken high school and college campuses by storm. Students getting a nicotine buzz without the stink or health risks that come with cigarettes. Because JUULing is so easy, it has created a smooth pathway to nicotine addiction.

On a November afternoon, four students hang out after a day of classes in a small Prosser dorm room. They're all freshmen, and all JUUL "addicts" by their own definition:

"I don't need to JUUL I just want to," said Sam and everybody agreed.

The tenants of the room: Gianna, from Brooklyn, and Nicole*, from Idaho, were both exposed to JUULing in their upperclassmen years of high school, but their "pre-exposure" stories are very different.

Gianna began smoking cigarettes freshman year of high school, "everyone around me was, it was popular to do in Manhattan, that's just what you did." Across the street from Gianna's high school was a drug store that sold cigarettes for 25 cents. "I would skip class and walk across the street to have a smoke." Her senior year, Gianna started JUULing in order to kick her habit and while she no longer smokes cigarettes, her nicotine addiction is now worse than ever.

Nicole started JUULing just because it was popular. Nicole's exposure to vaping started in eighth grade when she would hit no-nicotine vapes in her bedroom, "I liked just sitting in my room and watching the smoke go up," she explains looking in the air as if the vapor is mesmerizingly swirling above her head.

Today Gianna and Nicole are both addicted to JUULing. "Yesterday I drew a tick mark on my arm every time I hit the JUUL and at the end of the day I counted 90, and I definitely missed a lot," said Nicole. JUUL pods have approximately 150-200 "rips" in them before they run out (depended on how hard you hit it and for what length of time), Gianna and Nicole both claim to finish about one pod per day, the same amount of nicotine in a whole pack of cigarettes.

Photo Courtesy of Sarah Johnson, blacknote.com

"When you get buzzed your whole body tingles it's such a nice sensation," says Nicole.

"It's a sensation of-" says Sam.

"It's a sensation of love," John interjects.

"No no, it's a sensation of just feeling something going through your body, when you like to smoke you like to smoke, once you have that little thing you can just bring inside your house, it all gets calmed down by the buzz," said Sam with glazed, squinty eyes and a slight smile cracked to the side.

All four agreed that that one of the best parts of JUULing was getting a morning buzz. After using a JUUL habitually, its effects often dwindle, however, when used after waking up JUUL produces its greatest effects. "You take a morning rip, you sit up, and you're like... waving," John states as he sits up in bed and rocks his body from side to side with a grin on his face, mimicking the morning buzz euphoria.

Sam's eyes suddenly light up. "When I wake up in the middle of the night and get that night rip," he says and falls back into the bed with arms splayed to his sides and chin pointed towards the sky.

These students are addicted and they don't even know why.

Nicotine acts on acetylcholine receptors in the brain that increase the levels of the neurotransmitter dopamine and serotonin which results in a pleasant and relaxed feeling. The pleasant and euphoric feeling lasts for only a few minutes and quickly fades, however, increased heart rate may last for several hours after nicotine use. The problem with these side effects is that they quickly turn into physical addiction, users transition from wanting the calming effects to just fighting the symptoms of withdrawal.

Not only is nicotine already highly addictive but it is actually easier for youth to get hooked. According to the Surgeon General, the part of the brain that's responsible for decision making and impulse control is not yet fully developed during adolescence making young people already more likely to take risks with their health and safety, including the use of nicotine and other drugs.

In addition to that, the article explains how until about age 25, the brain is still growing. Each time a new memory is created or a new skill is learned, stronger connections are built between brain cells and these connections form faster in an adolescent brain. Addiction being a form of learning means adolescents can get addicted far more easily than adults.

The JUUL introduces the problems as being marketed as harmless when students don't even know what could possibly be in them like aerosol or flavoring (diacetyl) which are both carcinogens, and there is no healthy level of carcinogens. According to a study from Johns Hopkins, researchers found that the vapors from a variety of e-devices contain potentially toxic levels of metals, including lead; however, the study did not include JUULs. Researchers have lingering questions about the long-term effects that using e-cigarettes has on your general health, however, it is certain JUULing leads to addiction.

Some people have suggested that use of e-cigarettes by young people might prevent them from using cigarettes. While other studies show that non-smoking youth who use e-cigarettes are more likely to try conventional cigarettes in the future than non-smoking youth who do not use e-cigarettes.

A couple weeks earlier Nicole, Gianna, John, and Sam all smoked a cigarette together after a night out.

"It was an impulse buy," says Gianna.

But it might be more than just its physiological effects that get kids hooked, the JUUL makes it easier than ever to get that quick nicotine fix because you don't even need to get out of bed to do it and it's easy to hide your JUUL usage. These intense, but short lasting effects of nicotine often leave users to crave it more frequently.

"Who in their house has told their parents this was a USB?" said John, all four members of the circle hands go up and they laugh.

After the long conversation, the students finally begin to address their intentions of quitting.

"I kind of feel like its a part of the freshman experience, but by sophomore year I want to stop," said Nicole.

"Yes, I would if I could," added Gianna.

"Only thing scary about it is withdrawal symptoms," said Sam.

The cost of addiction is high, costing about $20 dollars per pack, JUUL cartridges are robbing kids of their money so they can fulfill their addictions. All four students have attempted to quit nicotine, at least for a couple of hours, or maybe days, but could not handle withdrawal symptoms. With the JUUL at their fingertips presenting less harmful side-effects for such feel-good sensations, is there even a point to quitting?

"I'll quit when reports start coming out about how bad these things are," said Nicole. "But I know these things are doing something, I can feel it in my lungs."

**All names have been modified for confidentiality*

Berg Beat Magazine
Faculty Editor - Sara Vigneri

The Muhlenberg Weekly
Chloe Gravereaux - EIC
Matt Riebesell - Managing Editor
Lynne Septon - Publisher

"Stop fixing your bodies and start fixing the world!"

-Eve Ensler

A festival of snow and ice:

'Berg celebrates Winterfest

By Abigail Sherman
Staff Writer

Last Saturday night the Muhlenberg Activities Council hosted Winterfest, an event where students could come get sweet treats and do fun, simple activities with their friends. I attended the event, and although it started out with a slow stream of people, the Event Space was eventually full of people who were all enjoying the festival.

This event featured a DIY sock-printing station; a station where you could have your picture put into a snowglobe; a chocolate fountain and cookie decorating station; and live music performed by Nelly's Echo, a guitarist and vocalist who performed during season three of The Voice on NBC. Nelly's Echo performed both original music and covers of familiar tunes like "I'm Yours" by Jason Mraz or "All of Me" by John Legend. Nelly's Echo is an immigrant from Nigeria and made reference to it during his performance, stating that he would perform a song in Nigerian. He was at his most entertaining when he was making fun jabs at 'Berg students, like saying: "If you can't speak Nigerian, clap your hands. If you can't clap your hands, stomp your feet. If you can't stomp your feet, I'll pray for you."

Many Muhlenberg students also enjoyed the event.

"Yeah, I love fuzzy socks, I love the music, [Nelly's Echo] is great, he's funny," Maereg Gebretekle '22 said. "This is one of the only times I'm free so I'm able to go and I'm enjoying it, I'm loving it."

> **"We weren't able to get as much word out, because everyone had to leave to get to this convention. I'm really happy with it, people seem to be having a good time."**

"I like the singer, I like the sweets, all the fun things that people can do," said Shelly Zaid-Kunz '22. She elaborated on events that MAC hosts, explaining that, "I like how different they all are. I think something like this is more relaxing, and other events are more chaotic. There's a lot of people here, but this one is small and nice, very relaxed."

Although many members of MAC were at the National Association for Campus Activities convention, there were still members of the exec board around to help. Juliana Reiner '21, who just finished her first year of working with MAC, was at the event helping it run smoothly. Reiner explained how she helped in the creation of the event, saying, "I didn't do as much planning as I did trying to get the word out. I do postings on Facebook for the 2022 and 2021 pages. I try to get the word out. And often I'll come an hour early and help the Fun Affairs people set up, or help with food, or even just talking to the performer."

Overall, Reiner was happy with the turnout of the event. "We weren't able to get as much word out, because everyone had to leave to get to the convention. I'm really happy with it, people seem to be having a good time," Reiner said.

Connor Baker '22, a member of MAC agreed, saying, "It has exceeded my expectations. There's never a clear path, like a certain amount of people go. Everyone seems like they're enjoying themselves. Nelly's Echo has been a really good singer and a great guy so far. This has 100 percent been a success."

NELLY'S ECHO
Cole Geissler / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Nelly's Echo performs for Muhlenberg students attending the Winter festival.

Looking towards the future, the Muhlenberg Activities Council is hosting multiple fun activities including a trip to see Avenue Q on Broadway and lovelytheband performing for 'Berg's annual spring concert.

"Keep in tune, we have a lot of exciting things planned and I can't wait for the future here," said Baker.

Cole Geissler / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Cole Geissler / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Left: Marie Pillsbury '21, Eunice Umubyeyi '21 and Faith Buckley '21 enjoying the festivities. Right: Nelly's Echo signs one of his CDs forJordan Hill '20.

Artist of the Week: Steven Smith

By Chane Kaba
Contributing Writer

In honor of Black History Month, students across campus are working in tandem to properly celebrate and inform the Muhlenberg community. One of these projects is a series of posters spread across campus with information and pictures of influential black activists, artists and athletes of the world. The curator of these posters, Steven Smith '19, strives to further engage and inform the community as a whole.

Originally to bring awareness to campus, the project started "trying to incorporate food that is apart of black culture into the dining hall," Smith continued, "but those conversations eventually branched out to having different events on campus for black culture."

One of the branches from the project is the creation of the multiple posters placed around campus. Each poster features notable people of African descent that did incredible things for the black community. The posters were created as a way to celebrate achievements centered around a positive black image.

"By black, I mean everyone under Africa's diaspora; Africans to Caribbean people to Afro-latinos to African Americans in the U.S. Just everybody," said Smith.

The posters are meant to highlight hard work and other positives, primarily due to the current representation featured on the media which does not always shine a positive light on black people. The posters are another way to help oppose that negative perception.

Julia Real / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Steven Smith '19 discussing his work for Black History Month.

There are 25 posters in total. There are 10 posters in Seegers, 10 posters in the CA, and five in the Life Sports Center. Each figure on the posters is placed in an area that they had a career in; Athletes are in the Life Sports Center, artists of various mediums in the CA, and political activists in Seegers. The posters are placed in areas that can catch your eye very easily, allowing for awareness to spread across campus.

Posters are not the only thing that is helping this campus gain a better understanding of black culture. Food is also an important medium of understanding.

"During the weeks of February, the food in the Woods Dining Commons would be traveling through African Diaspora by food," explained Smith. "We would see a lot of different foods that are a part of African culture. We would probably start off with food seen in West Africa to food in South America to food in the Islands. Even some food from West India. We might even see some Haitian food too."

Thanks to Sodexo Food Services, the people at Muhlenberg would be able to taste some of the food that originated from different countries. Students, faculty, and staff would be able to partake in events in the dining hall that would allow participants to make different dishes from different countries.

"This month there will be a workshop on how to make Jamaican beef patties similarly to how the Asian Student Association had a dumpling making workshop," said Smith.

Workshops like this are important to establish awareness across campus, further encouraging participants to be more involved in learning about Black History Month as opposed to simply observing.

"Another point of creating this project is to inform people on campus that we [black people] exist and there are positive attributes that we have done. Everyone should be made aware of that," said Smith.

It is important to have workshops like these because it helps students feel like they are not alone on campus and that there are other students who come from similar backgrounds and cultures.

Smith talked about how and why he came to the idea for creating this Black History Month project. "I just have a strong passion to help people, black people due to the context to how black people are treated in America and the oppressive system that they are trapped. I also wanted to inform people on campus since it is a predominantly white institution, some student faculty or staff may not be aware of the different aspects of black culture."

By creating this project and having multiple workshops, Smith is helping to increase the awareness on Muhlenberg Campus because not only are the events fun to be involved with, but they hold information that is beneficial to anyone who partakes in it.

The Bad Ones? A Great Decision

By Ellen Powers
Staff Writer

Muhlenberg's absurdist comedy group The Bad Ones held a show on Valentine's Day, which they titled "The Bad Ones Find Love feat. The Badchelor." The five members of The Bad Ones created a show that combined an interactive game show with the audience in the Red Door, and then they combined the interactive game show with a filmed parody of the reality show *The Bachelor*. Both the filmed and live parts of the show fit perfectly into The Bad Ones' absurdist humor. The way that they had created the show connected both the parody of *The Bachelor* and the live game show that they invented through the overarching theme of finding love.

At the beginning of the show, The Bad Ones introduced the show and then put on their filmed *Bachelor* parody. Their parody poked fun at the various quirky contestants that have appeared on the actual reality show over the years, featuring four of the members of The Bad Ones as a multitude of contestants, each with a unique oddity to their personality. All of these contestants got more and more ridiculous throughout the different clips that were played during the show, including running gags that added to the humor already present.

Photo Courtesy of The Bad Ones' YouTube Channel

From left to right: Nikki Miller '20, Jarrett Azar '20, Will Wamser '20, Juli Mindlin '20, Karly McCloskey '20) from their recent Bachelor parody singing "yee haw."

As The Bad Ones Member Karly McCloskey '20 described, the general premise was also born out of the ridiculousness of the actual reality show: "We all started watching *The Bachelor* together since we thought that the show was ridiculous but at the same time very entertaining. [...] We noticed that the bachelor follows a strict personality type, so we wanted to morph that a little bit and do the 'first fat bachelor' since they typically have very slim men on these shows." In this way, the group combined the absurdity of the actual reality show with their own sense of humor to create an entertaining video for the audience.

The filmed *Bachelor* parody was interspersed with a live game show that featured McCloskey as the host. The game show featured three contestants from the audience who served as "bachelors" for The Bad Ones member Nikki Miller '20 to choose to date. She was blindfolded and had to pick a contestant from each of three rounds based on questions that the group had created. The use of audience participation allowed for spontaneous responses from the audience and contestants, and Miller and McCloskey were hilarious when they came up with on-the-spot responses that also fit the absurdist humor of the show. The show concluded as the group tied both the filmed and live parts of the show together as Jarrett Azar '20, who played the "first fat bachelor" character, re-entered the stage in his costume from the filmed parody, and the other members of the group entered as one of each of their contestants as well. Instead of filming the Final Rose ceremony, they performed it live in front of the audience. This served as both a humorous and satisfying conclusion to everything that had been in the show beforehand.

Such absurdist humor begs the question of how the show gets written, but according to McCloskey, the process is collaborative (and hilarious) one: "There's only five of us so it's pretty easy to get everyone together to talk about the next show. We each come to the meetings with our own ideas and typically run them by everyone else. From there, we just sort of crack jokes at each other randomly, and we magically come to the conclusion about how we want something to go. We're very into each other's humor so we typically just end up finding each other very funny and we kind of just go with it."

This collaboration and sense of humor between the different members was extremely clear to the audience when the group performed their show. All five members seemed to be having so much fun with each other, both in the filmed parody and in the live interactive game show, which made it an entertaining evening for the audience.

A glimpse into *The Vagina Monologues*

By Lauren D. Mazur
Arts & Culture Editor

The female body and form has been shaped, created and re-enacted throughout various mediums of art and expression. Whether it be as a sign of purity and beauty, or one of sin and consternation—the woman's form has alway been under the analytical gaze. And yet, *The Vagina Monologues* takes this concept to a whole other level of understanding.

Last weekend, Muhlenberg students performed Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues.* A production that has been performed for a couple of years now, in which students come together to celebrate and perform the "taboo" subject that is the vagina.

Lindsay Tata '22 describes the experience as one of a kind.

"In a patriarchal society women are taught to identify against themselves when they view art produced by men depicting their version of a woman. To have the students see a production written by women, about women, really works to illustrate the true physical, mental, and emotional state of women," said Tata.

Tata was a reader in "The Vagina Workshop," which was consistent of various dialogues regarding the vagina as an unknown territory.

It was said that "I found it quite unsettling at first, my vagina. Like the first time you see a fish cut open and you discover this other bloody complex world inside, right under the skin."

Cole Geissler / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues* once again takes the stage-engaging Muhlenberg students in an open dialogue over the vagina.

Such imagery and language, that are often considered taboo in various public and private settings—language that Ensler argues need to be discussed out in the open.

"I bet you're worried. I was worried." Enser laments in her work, "I was worried about vaginas. I was worried about what we think about vaginas, and even more worried that we don't think about them."

Vaginas though, were not the only point of focus during the production. "I was playing a transgender woman," Arielle Moss '20 remarks. "[It was] a challenge for me as I am cisgender, so I was scared that I would not be able to properly convey the message to the audience. Each woman in my scene shows the traumas they experienced as a transgender female and the desire they have to be treated for the women that they truly were born to be."

The piece she performed in, "They Beat The Girl Out Of My Boy...Or so They Tried," featured five women lamenting the struggles and experience of being transgender. The language used encompassed the change and desire, one whispers "And my voice, practice practice. It's all about resonance...Men are monotone and flat. Southern accents are really excellent..." at which another woman answers, "and my vagina is so much friendlier. I cherish it. It brings me joy."

"They wanted to be seen as women even though they were not born with vaginas, said Moss. "Through rehearsals, each of us were able to connect with our roles, and hoped we brought the message to the audience. In *The Vagina Monologues,* there are some scenes where women hate the vagina with which they were born. My scene was different, as the characters all desired to get a vagina, even though this desire sometimes results in violence."

The theme of revealing oneself weaves throughout the pieces, from "The Vagina Workshop," to "Hair," referring to the hair on the vagina, and how much pressure is often put on removing it. The character laments on her choice of following her husband's insistence:

"*He* got to shave my vagina. It was like a therapy bonus prize. He clipped it a few times and there was a little blood in the bathtub...later, when my husband was pressing against me, I could feel his spiky sharpness sticking into me, my naked puffy vagina. There was no protection. There was no fluff."

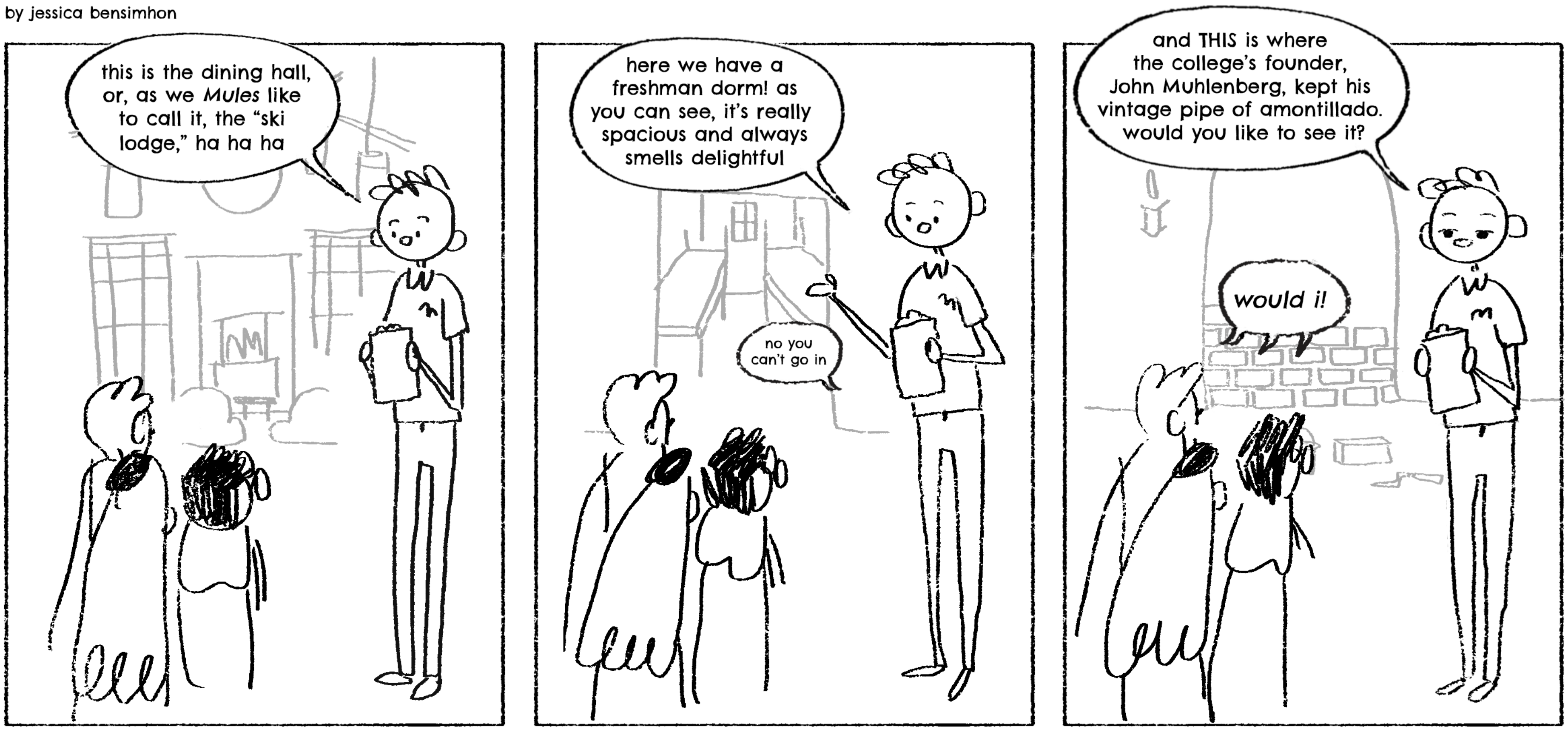
The realisation is painful, "I realized then that hair is there for a reason — it's the leaf around the flower, the lawn around the house. You have to love hair in order to love the vagina. You can't pick the parts you want. And besides, my husband never stopped screwing around."

The Vagina Monologues, as in past productions, is a must-see performance of gender and physical bodies in dialogue. Truly a necessity for all to watch, and ultimately, to understand with an open mind.

"For those who identify as women it's an opportunity," Tata explained, "to hear about topics that aren't discussed or facilitated in public or even private life. For those who identify as men it gives them the chance to see a glimpse into the minds and the experiences of their mothers, sisters, and friends."

an excellent jest

by jessica bensimhon


this is the dining hall, or, as we *Mules* like to call it, the "ski lodge," ha ha ha
here we have a freshman dorm! as you can see, it's really spacious and always smells delightful
no you can't go in
and THIS is where the college's founder, John Muhlenberg, kept his vintage pipe of amontillado. would you like to see it?
would i!

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY/OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

Editorial

Derailed

One of the main long-distance transportation options for Muhlenberg, Bieber bus, simply stopped running all buses midday last Friday. They gave no advance notice to passengers or to the bus drivers. In addition to leaving customers at the curb, the company closed with "$7 million in loan defaults, health care and pension obligations, taxes and more, according to federal, state and county court records," as reported by The Morning Call.

Once the initial chaos died down, it left many people wondering: what other transportation options are there to get to New York or Philly? The answer is: surprisingly not much, at least in terms of bus companies.

Muhlenberg has certainly provided its students with many opportunities to get around Allentown- including buses provided by the Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority (LANTA) and Zagster bikes, the latter of which has been put away until the weather is better.

While it is not Muhlenberg's responsibility to provide transportation to students to New York or Philly, it is frustrating that it is advertised as "close" when, in reality, students can't easily get to those cities. Certainly, Muhlenberg's career center makes a point of bringing students to these cities for jobs, in addition to Washington, D.C. Jobs that nearly half of the class of 2023 will have no easy access towithout a private transportation option- making it a frustrating choice for students who either can't afford to drive themselves while in school, don't have the time, or simply aren't comfortable driving that far.

And now, with Bieber bus shut down, there is one less option for students who either can't drive or are uncomfortable traveling that far.

Maybe the answer could be found not in the honk of a bus horn or the clink of a bike chain, but in the blow of a steam whistle. That's right - passenger trains.

Allentown is the third largest city in Pennsylvania, after Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. So why isn't there a rail linei from Allentown to the two biggest cities in the Northeast? Especially given Muhlenberg's website proudly boasting that its campus is fewer "than 90 miles west of New York City and 50 miles north of Philadelphia," and considering the number of staff and students who come from out of state, it's surprising how difficult it can be to catch a ride on public transport to either of those two cities.

So why is there no train service from Allentown to Philly? The answer is: There is one. It's just not open to passengers.

In 2015, Amtrak tried to run a single train from Allentown to Bethlehem to Easton to New Jersey, a plan which – The Morning Call aptly reported – was later "derailed."

There is a single line of track running between Allentown and Manhattan, which is owned by Norfolk Southern Corporation. In 2017, Randy Husband, the company's spokesperson, told the Morning Call: "We just can′t muck it up with passenger trains."

"Such a route would have to use Norfolk Southern′s lucrative Lehigh Line," reported The Morning Call. "A single track line with 30 to 45 trains a day running on a strict schedule that is too tight to be interrupted by passenger traffic, [Husband] said."

Kirk D. Raup has been working since 1992 to bring rail service to the Lehigh Valley- which is longer than most students here have been alive. And what's stopped him is millions of dollars- not just in studies, but in building materials and supplies. Assembly of the line would take over ten years of construction, and be what one writer to The Morning Call likened to one of FDR's New Deal projects.

A 2010 study predicted the project would cost $658 million.

PennDot currently plans to spend $228 million in the next four years on railway maintenance- a single percent of the $21 *billion* to be spent on other modes of transportation. The money, it appears, is there.

We are, afterall, spending several billion on another piece of infrastructure now. What's the harm in spending a little more, with a lot more practicality?

A Pup Named Scooby Doo is a masterpiece

By Jarrett Azar
Contributing Writer

"I agree." That's what my best friend and colleague Will Wamser said when I told him the headline of this article. Wamser, who is the Op/Ed section editor, 2018 Allentown mayoral candidate, and in-house funnyman of The Bad Ones (Muhlenberg's best comedy group), agrees. As the other in-house funnyman of The Bad Ones, I have an opinion to present you, one that can't be refuted. *A Pup Named Scooby Doo* is a masterpiece. "Ruh Roh," am I right? Let's talk about it.

A Pup Named Scooby Doo debuted on Sept. 10, 1988. It ran until Aug. 17, 1991, and had FOUR seasons, COUNT 'EM, FOUR! Now that's a "Jinkies!" if I′ve ever heard one. The series racked up a whole TWENTY SEVEN episodes. "Zoinks!" The show features younger versions of the classic Scooby Doo gang. They go around Coolsville solving mysteries as the Scooby Doo Detective Agency. The key difference between *A Pup Named Scooby Doo* and other incarnations of the series is self-awareness. Self-awareness creates a cartoon that can be enjoyed by adults and children alike. Let's take a look at "Terror thy Name is Zombo," the twenty-first episode of the show and see if we can find some moments of self-awareness.

Now here, my loyal and lovely readers, is where I have to put a spoiler warning. The big man upstairs is making me. The Scooby Doo Detective Agency, AKA "the gang," go down to Coolsville's best amusement park, Jipner's Joyland. Scooby and Shaggy plan on being the first to ride the new ride, Monster Mountain. To accomplish this they eat FOUR HUNDRED AND FIFTY boxes of cereal, "Hi, I'm Fred," am I right? When the gang arrives, they find that the amusement park is closed, The gang then meets Jolly Jipner, the turnip mascot for Jipner's Joyland. Turnip mascot. He tells them that the park is closed because Zombo's Ghost has shown up to get revenge as he used to own Jipner's Joyland. He introduces them to his brother Joey Jipner. Joey ends up being Zombo, I don't have time to explain all of how we got there, just the important bits. I'm wasting time saying this even! Come on. At some point Velma says "Jinkies!" which means she found a clue. She says "Jinkies!" again shortly after, to which Shaggy says that Velma is "on a roll." I forgot to mention that Velma is a pseudo-mute in this series. Oh look, a new paragraph, how cool.

My favorite part of this entire series, and what really sets it apart, are the monster chase scenes. Let me tell you why, and stop rushing me, would you? Thank you. Ok, so in this episode when the Zombo pops out and is about to chase the gang through the park, all the characters get scared in the classic cartoon jump and hold mid-air fashion. Except Daphne. This is of course because she had just gotten her hair done and didn't want to ruin it. So she solved this problem the only way she could. She called her butler Jinkins, and had him be scared for her. All the while she is telling the other characters to not start the music yet. This is important because during chase scenes the characters all take breaks to dance. Yes, dance. They stop being chased or find a spot away from the monster to dance. Here's the kicker, even THE MONSTER will dance. It's truly absurd in the best way possible. This is possibly the most blatant example of the self-awareness. It′s insane that they all stop to dance. It takes the classic Scooby Doo formula and twists it, only slightly, never too much. The classic formula never says "ouch!" and instead lets out the slow sigh of relief of a good back crack.

When they finally stop the monster at the end of the chase scene, the gang spouts their ideas of who the monster could be. Daphne says that it is Bart Jipner, who owns the bad amusement park, Sloppo Land, just next door. Probably my second favorite thing in this series is the fact that every episode, yes every episode, Fred accuses his neighborhood bully, Red Herring, of being the monster. But in this episode, Fred can't figure out who it is, so Red comes out of nowhere and asks Fred if he's going to accuse him again, to which Fred exclaims that yes in fact, Red Herring is Zombo. In every episode, Velma will say the correct theory, because she's some kind of genius. Pfft. Show off.

Self-awareness is what makes this show as great as it is. It doesn't act like the mystery is hard to solve or particularly intriguing. It doesn't act like only children will ever watch it. It's not afraid be sillier than it should be, it's not afraid to call its characters stupid, and it sure isn't afraid to make you laugh. You should watch it, you won't regret it.

P.S. No matter what they tell you I DID NOT hold Emily Drake at gunpoint during production to publish this article.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

The uncomfortable truth about a capella

Why one student desires more from the genre

By Will Wamser
Op/Ed Editor and Humorist

Disclaimer: The opinions stated in this article are solely those of the author and do not reflect the position of The Muhlenberg Weekly.

I have been advised by many not to publish this article, but I will no longer be silenced. Before getting to the meat, allow me to give some background on myself and my relationship to a cappella. I am no stranger to a cappella, for three years of high school I myself was in an a cappella group, the Creshen-dudes, and in my senior year I co-ran it. Two of my siblings also spent their fair share of time in a cappella groups, and I went to their performances. There was a point where I thought a cappella was cool, but that point has passed.

I understand the culture on this campus, I get that I will be in the minority here, but enough is enough. I do not like a capella. Not only do I not like a cappella, I also do not understand how people can consistently be engaged and entertained by a cappella shows. Obviously people here at Muhlenberg like a capella, there are six a cappella groups on campus, which for a campus of approximately 2,000 students that seems excessive. But before saying something as rash as that, we must consider what distinguishes them from each other. For the most part, what distinguishes them is the demographics of their members (like Acafellas or Girls Next Door), with the exception of Noteworthy, who only performs Broadway tunes, and the Chaimonics, who perform traditional Hebrew songs as well as contemporary pop hits. I can see what makes these groups different from each other, but the greater question remains.

What makes any a cappella group different from any other a cappella group in the world? As far as I can tell, not much. And this is true of all a cappella groups, not just those here at Muhlenberg. One of the best things about music is what people do with it. Musical genres are supposed to grow, develop, change with time and groups but I just don't see that with a cappella. A cappella is just a regurgitation of popular music and it has been since its inception. How am I supposed to be interested in the Acafellas rendition of Year 3000 when I can find thousands of other groups doing virtually the same thing? This is not an attack on the Acafellas, this is an attack on a cappella. Because if I went to Williams College I'd be writing about why the Williams College Ephlats do those same songs. And I get that writing new and interesting a cappella songs is difficult, that's why I don't do it. That's why I write comedy, because I enjoy putting in the effort to try and write new and interesting comedic pieces. If you aren't going to try something new or try to make something different, what's the point in doing it? And if you aren't going to see anything new or different, what's the point in seeing it? I understand that this would take a long time, but wouldn't it be better to have less concerts that are more interesting and engaging?

What makes any a capella group different from any other a capella group in the world? As far as I can tell, not much.

A capella is just a regurgitation of popular music and it has been since its inception.

I want to be clear, I do not mean to cast aspersions on any of the a cappella groups at Muhlenberg or their members, they are talented and I couldn't do what they do. I get why people do a cappella, it's a lot of fun to be in an a cappella group and if you like to sing it is a great way to get yourself out there. I am casting aspersions on you, the reader. Yes, you. You who attends these concerts seeing the same songs with different singers. Look at the GND valentine's day concert. There was only one new song at this event, yet it was packed. You are going to see people you have seen before sing songs you have heard them sing before. Why?

That isn't a rhetorical question, I really want to know because I don't get it. To me a cappella is boring and tiresome and I don't see the appeal but there must be some appeal. The obsession with a cappella on campus made me angry for a long time, I was frustrated that people didn't seem to want anything new and were instead satisfied seeing the same old thing over and over again. Now it just makes me sad because trying something new on this campus is difficult and usually not supported by the student body. This isn't a Muhlenberg specific issue, in America college a cappella groups are more common than colleges. I clearly am missing something. I am still frustrated that it seems that people would rather see a cookie cutter a cappella group rather than, for instance, a new comedian coming to campus. Maybe there is something appealing about the comfort in knowing that you will get the same thing, comfort in knowing. But what is that comfort good for? You have power, if you stop showing up in support for a cappella groups, they will have to start doing more. You can like a cappella, but that doesn't mean you can't have high expectations and hold people to those expectations and I hope that you do.

Destigmatizing counselling services

Nothing has to "be wrong" for you to seek help

By Emily Falkenstein
Contributing Writer

In college, we repeatedly hear about the resources available to us. We have to read about all of them in forms and we see flyers up all over campus for things offered. These range from academics to health. However, I have noticed that taking advantage of those resources for your health often are ignored or carry a stigma. One of these is the counseling services at school. I have heard people say "you go to counseling, why what's wrong?" or I have heard people say "he goes to counseling? For what?" As much as hearing these words made my blood boil, they said so much about how we need to change the conversation in respect to what counseling can do and why counseling is important.

I believe that everyone can benefit from going to a counselor. A counselor is just there to listen to you. Going to a counselor can be no different than ranting to a friend about how shitty your day was or how much work you have. The difference is that a counselor is someone who can offer you professional advice on how to handle that stuff that is bothering you. Let's be honest, we are all in college and we all have gotten stressed so far this year at least once. Sometimes we have a stressful week (AKA weeks leading up to finals) and we just don't know how to deal with it. Yep, counselors can be there just to listen to how stressed you are and maybe help you think of ways that can help you control it. Wouldn't it be nice to just talk about it out loud? There does not have to be something mentally wrong with you to go see a counselor. I am sick of hearing that only people with mental illnesses and "issues" go to counseling and therapy.

I just talked everything out and someone was there to listen, not judge or not tell me about how stressful their day was too.

I am not afraid to say that I started going to the counseling services just this semester. I personally started going because I feel more stressed than I did last semester, but rather than just stress about in my dorm, I wanted to learn a better way to handle the stress and get the work done. My friends noticed how much pressure I was putting on myself and how it was causing me to constantly be worrying about work in just the first week of the semester. My friends suggested that I should maybe go to the counseling center to see if I could get an appointment with someone to just talk about how to handle the stress. I had been to counselors before back home, but never really felt like it helped me so I never thought about going here. Maybe, this was some of the stigma affecting me as I kept thinking that I didn't have time to go. However, deep down I knew that it would be beneficial for me to give it another try, so I went over to the center and made an appointment with someone the next day. Just after going one time, I felt so much better because I just talked everything out and someone was there to listen, not judge or not tell me about how stressful they're day was too. Going to the counseling services should not be something people feel ashamed or scared of and it does not matter what you go to the counseling services for. The fact is that none of us have it all together all the time and that is the reality.

A counselor is someone who can offer you professional advice on how to handle that stuff that is bothering you.

Yes, it is true that everyone can have different experiences with counseling, but it should not be something that we totally shut down or judge as it has been proven to serve as such a benefit to so many people. So ask yourself how can we as not just a campus, but as a society in general overcome the stigma we carry about counseling? For starters on campus, support your friends if they say they are going to start going counseling, don't just ask them "why, what's wrong with you?" There does not need to be something "wrong" with someone if they choose to go. Another way to stop this stigma is to have conversations with your friends and your family about it, explain to people who do not understand. If we just avoid the topic because it is a "touchy subject", then nothing can ever change. However, we must all work together if we are to end the stigma associated with counseling.

Finishing fifth

Women's basketball's season comes to an end after low-scoring battle at Ursinus

By Noah Brill
Contributing Writer

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Following the game, Coach Kevin Hopkins had nothing but words of praise for his two seniors.

With 7.4 seconds left on the game clock on Feb. 16, the Muhlenberg women's basketball team entered a timeout huddle pumped. Sara Dilly '19 had made an acrobatic layin with 20 seconds left to go up 53-52, and an insurance free throw by Emilie Benton '20 gave the Mules a two point lead against Franklin & Marshall. Knowing defense was Muhlenberg's strength, there was reason to be confident.

Timeout ends. Play resumes. F&M inbounds the ball, dribbles to the corner, passes to the key, and after a sequence of Diplomats sneakily criss-crossing, a pass was sent back into the corner. The three point attempt swooshed through the basket leaving .7 seconds for Muhlenberg to unsuccessfully attempt a tap-in-to-win. It was a win the Mules needed. Going into the game they knew they determined their own fate to make the playoffs as the fourth or fifth seed. With the Franklin & Marshall three, their season had ended in the blink of an eye, on senior day nonetheless, ending a 14 season streak of the program making the playoffs.

Then, just minutes after their loss, the Mules received a phone call. It was a lifeline.

Centennial Conference rival Dickinson lost a shocking upset to Washington College after a Red Devils' second half comeback attempt fell short.

In their contest against the Dips, The Lady Mules shot only 15-58 from the field while making only 7-27 shots from behind the arc. On top of that, they missed nine free throws, which proved to be costly as the Diplomats' margin of victory was so slim.

"You win and you advance," said Emily O'Mahoney '20 after the F&M game. "What happened in the regular season is what got us here, but now that record does not matter because anyone can win any game. We have to take the playoffs one game at a time."

A positive from the matchup against the Dips was the strong play of the team's first-year players, most notably Margaux Epiret '22, who posted the first double-double of her young collegiate career with 13 points and 11 rebounds. She lead the team in each category. Mikaela McGarvey '22, added clutch three pointers from close to half court kept the game nip and tuck right down to the wire.

"We have fought hard all season, so I expect us to keep fighting until the very end," O'Mahoney said.

Unfortunately, while the Mules fought like O'Mahoney predicted, the women suffered a first round loss in the Centennial Conference playoffs at the paws of the Ursinus Bears on Tuesday, Feb. 19.

A 25 percent shooting percentage highlighted the 57-38 contest which featured a Mules offense that was kept quiet, scoring only six, nine, and seven points in the first, second and third quarters respectively. Dilly tied a season high, scoring 13 points in the season finale.

Although the early exit from the 2019 playoffs will sting until the 2019-2020 season commences, the Mules did break a program record for least points allowed per game, with an average of 52.0. It is the best mark in the shot clock era, according to the Muhlenberg Athletics website.

Additional reporting by Matt Riebesell, Managing Editor.

Lifting weight off his shoulders

'Berg offices sponsor Vanden Grube's unique athletic trip to Ohio

By Matt Riebesell
Managing Editor

Let's think of things that are over 1,500 lbs. A bunch of animals weigh in at about 1,500 lbs, like your average cow. An average grizzly or polar bear is only about 1,300 lbs. Now onto objects. One and a half grand pianos are typically 1,500 lbs. The last random object or organism I will list weighing in at 1,500 lbs is the sum of about eight refrigerators.

Oh, one more thing is about 1,500 lbs. Vanden Grube's '20 pound total - the amount of weight one can lift between squatting, bench pressing, and deadlifting - is actually 225 lbs more than all of the previously mentioned benchmarks. That is correct, Grube can lift a total of 1,725 lbs within not only a single day, but a few hours of competition, which has earned him the right to compete at the United States Powerlifting Association Drug Tested Collegiate Nationals on Feb. 23 at Ohio University. Grube will be lifting in the 220 lb weight class during the national championship event.

Grube was not always as strong as he is now, though. After his first competition he lifted a modest 1330 lbs in the three events. You know, probably the amount a casual lifter would achieve after hitting the weights every day for the next two weeks. That first competition was in February of 2016 - about three years after he begun training.

"In high school I began weight training in the winter of freshman year to prepare for football," said Grube. "At the conclusion of my senior football season I realized how I enjoyed weight training more than football. I began to seek out competitions and started training specifically to excel in the squat, bench and deadlift."

The nearly 400 lb increase from his start to his last competition is what Grube described as his greatest accomplishment as a competitive powerlifter. Specifically, Grube squatted 628 lbs, bench pressed 385 lbs and deadlifted 711 lbs during his record competition in October of 2018. Grube's impressive results earned him a junior national record (classified between the ages of 20-23) for the squat, deadlift, and total pounds.

"Stepping back after a training cycle and evaluating personal progression from one competition to the next is very rewarding," Grube said. "It is a direct reflection of the work that was put in."

"Seeing fellow athletes progress that have similar goals often drives me to become better and is very rewarding to see them succeed," he added.

While powerlifting may seem like a simple concept - lift as much weight as you can in different positions - Grube appreciates the strategy and proper form needed to keep competitive powerlifters healthy and successful.

"I have failed lifts occasionally in competition, but with three attempts for each lift per competition there is some room to take risks with attempting heavier weight when there is a possibility for failure," Grube started. "The key is not to choose a weight that greatly exceeds your estimated potential, as that often results in injury from the breakdown of proper form."

What puts a blip in Grube's powerlifting plans is the fact that there is no affiliation between the school and powerlifting. There is no team. There is no coach. There is just Grube.

The junior has not let the circumstances derail his plans. "I do not share the same experience with that of NCAA athletes. I train at Competitive Edge Power and Fitness," he explained. Grube also explained that over 50 other competitive powerlifters use the Allentown, Pa. facility to prepare for competitions. Aside from training off campus, Grube mentioned gym fees, competition fees and any travel fees as hurdles he must overcome every time he competed.

After reaching out to multiple college offices for financial support, Grube will be able to compete in the late February event.

"My upcoming appearance at collegiate nationals is the first competition where I am receiving financial support," Grube said. "My travel and registration expenses have been covered which allows me to focus on my performance on the platform." Specifically, the athletic department, student government and Dean Gulati's office have helped Grube make competing nationally in 2019 a reality.

With Muhlenberg's support, Grube will be headed to Ohio University to lift amounts heavier than adult bears, cows, horses, a grand piano and a half, and eight refrigerators. Feats he would not be able to accomplish without a new support system spanning across Muhlenberg's campus.

"I am very fortunate to have received sponsorship from many departments on campus. Without their support I would not be able to attend collegiate nationals."

Warming up for winter finale

After disappointing outcomes last year, both Men's and Women's Track and Field look to improve in 2019

By Jason Grant
Asst. Sports Editor

The men's and women's track team are gearing up for the Centennial Conference Indoor Championships on Feb. 23 and 24. The event is be hosted by Franklin & Marshall in Lancaster, Pa.

The men's team looks to build on their fifth place finish last year, where they finished only three points behind fourth place finisher, Ursinus. There is definitely room to improve and place higher this time around.

The women's team, however, finished last year's championship in disappointing fashion, ending in ninth place. Despite that, they had some standout performances. Emily Mitchell '21 finished fourth in the long jump in her first conference meet with Alison Stouffer '20 finishing fifth in the event. The squad looks to be competitive yet again in the long jump with both athletes returning to this year's competition.

The Mules look to dethrone the defending champions, the Johns Hopkins Blue Jays, who came away victorious in both the men's and women's field, blowing away the competition with wins by considerable margins.

However, Coach Brad Hackett, who is the head coach of both teams, is not so concerned with the results this weekend. He has simply been proud of the team's hard work.

"We have been training hard and working towards this weekend for months. My expectations for the weekend are that the student athletes on our team are rewarded for the hard work and that they discover what they are truly capable of when put into an important and competitive situation."

Coach Hackett has been leading the track and field teams to success since he began at Muhlenberg in 1999. He knows what it takes to compete at the top of the conference, leading the men to three 2nd place finishes and the women to one championship in his tenure. His only concern is the size of the team following a season in which they had many graduating seniors.

"I would say the biggest weakness of our team right now is our overall roster size. We are down a bit from years past. There really is no way to adjust for that in the short term, and the long term adjustment is to continue to recruit aggressively in order to get the roster size up to where it was four to five years ago."

Erik Berger '19, who is competing in discus and shot put this weekend, is hoping that his final Centennial Conference Championship is coming at the right time for the squad.

"We are preparing for the Conference Championship through catering our workouts in a specific way so that we peak at the right time."

Berger has placed in discus twice in his career. He finished in eighth place in both 2016 and 2017. He is hoping that Coach Hackett's experience and methods in practice will take him and everyone else very far.

"Our coaches are motivating us by pushing us to become better athletes. We are confident that our hard work will pay off."

Heartbreak at home

After failing to win either of final two games men's basketball fails to clinch the playoffs

By Brandon Kossin
Senior Staff Writer

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Following the game, Coach Kevin Hopkins had nothing but words of praise for his two seniors.

The Muhlenberg men's basketball team started off the week in fourth place in the Centennial Conference standings with aspirations of clinching a playoff berth for the first time in Coach Hopkins' two year Muhlenberg coaching career. However, things did not go as expected. The Mules ended their season heartbroken as they were unable to come away with wins in either of their last two contests, needing only one to clinch a playoff berth. Their two losses came at the hands of Ursinus, the three seed in the conference, and Gettysburg, a team that was not fighting for playoff contention. Both losses were close contests, each by single digit margins.

This was a very emotional loss for both Brendan Hughes '19 and Erik Werheim '19, as they never had the opportunity to compete in the postseason in any of their four years at Muhlenberg; they were hoping that they would be able to close out their careers by competing in the conference playoffs. Despite not having the opportunity to make a postseason run, this season was by far the best a Muhlenberg basketball team has looked in the past four seasons. The majority of players on this year's team were either freshman or sophomores and despite their inexperience, the youngsters propelled this team to a near postseason berth.

As a Muhlenberg basketball fan, it was obvious that all players grew substantially under the coaching of Coach Kevin Hopkins, as he not only taught them how to better their skillset, but how to be an exceptional teammate. There is good reason to be optimistic for the basketball program, as these youngsters have the talent and focus that could help them win a Centennial Conference championship in the near future.

After the final buzzer, the seniors were both reflected on the positives that they had taken away from the year despite the playoff elimination. Brendan Hughes, captain of the team, responded by saying, "One of the main positives that I took away from the season was our ability to stick together and be cohesive as a team. There were moments where we could have folded, yet, we continued to show up to practice with the same commitment and dedication. I am so proud to have been apart of this program!"

Werheim followed up saying, "I think that we had many positives throughout the year. I believe we developed a team first culture that will stay strong for years to come as well as an expected work ethic. The team had a lot of young guys this year and I think they are capable of great things down the road."

The tremendous leadership of Hughes and Werheim will certainly develop the young talent into outstanding basketball players with poise, direction and a strong work ethic.

The seniors were also reflected upon the final words Coach Hopkins shared with them in order to keep spirits ups and heads held firmly high following the elimination from the CC playoffs. "Coach Hopkins thanked Erik and I for the impact that we have had on the program. The loss was a painful one for both of us, as it was our best chance to make the playoffs that we had throughout the entirety of our college basketball careers. His praise definitely helped ease the pain from the loss, but at the end of the day as a competitor, I wish we had the chance to host the playoff game, let alone make the playoffs," said Hughes.

"It was tough in the locker room after the loss. Coach Hopkins talked about both Brendan and I and how we contributed to the program over the year which meant a lot to both of us, but it was definitely an emotional moment," Werheim shared.

Despite the heartbreaking end to the season, there is good reason to be optimistic for the future. The young Mules are ready to take the Centennial Conference by storm in the 2019-2020 season, and with Coach Hopkins leading the pack this team should be good for years to come.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Winning the first faceoff

Men's lacrosse comes away with convincing win in opener, but believe improvements can be made

By Samantha Brenner
Contributing Writer

The Muhlenberg men's lacrosse team was eager to bounce back into competition coming off of a hot season, winning 11 games and making it to the postseason. They set a new school record, winning games in the postseason and making it to the finals. They ended their season after coming up short in the finals of the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Tournament against Stockton.

With their first game on Saturday, Feb. 16, the team had been practicing and perfecting their gameplan in order to continue the success of 2018.

Finding the net six times, with three coming before halftime, Scott Fayan '20, helped lead his men to their first victory of the 2019 season. Playing at home against FDU-Florham, the Mules won the afternoon match 14-7. While the team exited Scotty Wood Stadium with the win, Fayan believed that there was room for improvement. "When we turned it over, a good amount of the time it came from us just not running."

Being the leading scorer of Saturday's game, he was not all that impressed with their showing. "We didn't play as well as it may have looked," said Fayan.

Fayan credits this win to his coaches, especially head coach Jake Plunket. "Our coaches had us well prepared. There wasn't a point in the game where I wasn't confident in my teammates." The hard work and the stress put on teamwork that they emphasized during preseason had benefited them, making every second of their training worth it.

On a personal note, Fayan aims high, looking to pick up right where he left off. "My role on the team is shooting and I want to be reliable and have my teammates confident in my scoring when I take a shot." With the team's trust, he hopes to help build on what they have started. "By cleaning up mistakes, and keep shooting," he hopes to relay his message to the team.

In addition to Fayan, Garrett Pope '20 played a huge role in the win, making 12 clutch saves for the team. Pope credits the team's week long focus on their opponents that ultimately gave them the win. "We knew that they had a few key players on offense and we spent all week studying their tendencies," said Pope.

Working alongside assistant coach Alex Stone, Pope was able to thrive and have a strong game for him and for the team overall. "Coach Stone came up with a great game plan which allowed us to limit their key players output."

Pope hopes this season is different than his last year's season. "My goal is to perform better than last year and hopefully at the conclusion of the season be on the All-Centennial Conference team."

Coming into his fourth season as head coach of the Muhlenberg men's lacrosse team, Coach Jake Plunket pushes his team to utilize what they have been practicing up to the first game.

As they head into the third week of the season, Coach Plunket wants his players to continue relying on each other while pushing their personal goals.

Following the victory, Coach Plunket commended his team for their efforts. "After only two weeks of practice, I was impressed with how our young men executed the game plan, stayed poised, and capitalized on their opportunities in the first half."

He has high hopes for the team and would love to see certain things on both sides of the ball. "I hope to see our offense take care of the ball and utilize the shot clock to get high percentage shots. Defensively, we want to continue to grow as a unit," Coach Plunket said.

The men's lacrosse team looks to find the same outcome in their next game on Feb. 23 as they travel to Scranton, Pa. The Mules are looking to come out strong against the 2-0 Scranton Royals. Fayan hopes to continue on with his team. "There wasn't a point in the game where I wasn't confident in my teammates reading defenses and knowing what to do."

Hopefully as the season continues, the team will continue to flourish and hopefully have the same ending as last season. "We want to continue to rise as a contender in the Centennial Conference and extend our season into the playoffs," said Coach Plunket.

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics.

Coming up this week in SPORTS

Feb. 23

Women's Basketball	Wrestling	Track and Field	Baseball
Muhlenberg vs McDaniel	NCAA Mideast Regionals	Centennial Conference Championships	Muhlenberg Split Double Header
Saturday, Feb. 23 @ 1:00 pm Scotty Wood Stadium	Saturday, Feb. 23 Brockport, NY	Saturday, Feb. 23 Lancaster, PA	Saturday, Feb. 23 @ 10:30 & 5:00 Granville, WV

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Read on 4:

Pa. has one of the worst instances of gerrymandering in the nation

Photo Courtesy of Office of Communications

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2019
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NEWS

Students in the Innovation and Entrepreneurship department will have a voice in deciding the future plans for what will replace the recently closed Cafe Frais.

read more on 3

ARTS & CULTURE

The final Friday of Black History Month brought students and community members together to celebrate the successes of black heritage in Allentown.

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OP/ED

The Editorial Board comments on the public response to Will Wamser's "The uncomfortable truth about a cappella" and the public outrage surrounding the article.

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Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

SPORTS

From putting in tremendous work outside of to adjusting to indoor Track and Field; staying dedicated proves worthwhile.

read more on 10

Prominent author and attorney Scott Turow to speak at commencement

Photo Courtesy of Scott Turow

By Laura Schwarz and
Sydney Coplin
News Editors

Muhlenberg College has officially announced this year's commencement speaker, as well as the honorary degree recipients. Scott Turow, legal author and attorney, will address the Class of 2019 at the 171st Commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 19. Turow will be joined by Sarah Bloom Raskin, Dr. Alex Levin '78 and Kaitlin Rois-DeBellis, who will also be receiving honorary degrees.

Turow earned his undergraduate degree from Amherst College and attended Harvard Law School, where he received his J.D. His first book, *One L: The Turbulent True Story of a First Year at Harvard Law School* (1977), is an autobiographical account of his experience at the school. Among the 14 books Turow has written, four have been turned into films, including *Presumed Innocent* (1990) starring Harrison Ford. Four of his novels have become bestsellers, with Time magazine naming his 1999 book *Personal Injuries* the Best Fiction Novel of that year.

Along with selling over 30 million copies of his books, Turow was featured on the cover of Time Magazine in 1990, being described as the "Bard of the Litigious Age."

In addition to his success as a writer, Turow has led a 40-year career as an attorney, working with the U.S. Attorney's office as well as being a partner on an international law firm.

″Scott Turow is larger than life as both an author of crime and suspense novels focused on the law and the legal profession and as a practicing attorney,″ said President John I. Williams Jr. ″I feel so fortunate to have Scott as a friend, dating back to law school days, when Scott, my wife, Diane, and I were all classmates. It′s truly wonderful to have Scott Turow at Commencement to offer his wisdom to our graduates as Commencement speaker.″

Kaitlin Roig-DeBellis is an author and the founder of the organization Classes4Classes, which is described as "a social networking tool, for every student in the United States to learn: compassion, caring, kindness, empathy, consideration, through active engagement." As a former first-grade teacher at Sandy Hook Elementary School, Roig-DeBellis helped save the lives of her students during the 2012 tragedy, and was named a L'Oreal Paris Woman of Worth and a Glamour Woman of the Year in 2013. Her autobiography, *Choosing Hope: Moving Forward from Life's Darkest Hours* was published in 2015. Laura Bush, Former First Lady of the United States described Rois-Bellis's book, saying,

"Kaitlin's quick thinking and swift action saved her students' lives. In *Choosing Hope,* she honors the memory of the children and educators whose lives were lost on that sad day."

Rois-DeBellis earned her undergraduate degree at the University of Connecticut and her master's degree in education at its Neag School of Education. As a public speaker, she talks all over the world, sharing her moving experiences. Rois-DeBellis has also received honorary degrees from from Bay Path College and Luzerne College.

Sarah Bloom Raskin, another Harvard Law School graduate receiving an honorary degree, is known for her promotion of financial-sector cybersecurity. She was also heavily involved in creating the G7 Fundamental Elements of Cybersecurity for the Financial Sector, a set of international guidelines with a goal of mitigating risk of potential threats in 2016.

Bloom Raskin is currently an attorney and Rubenstein Fellow at Duke Law School. She has previously served as a member of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors. In addition, under former President Barack Obama, she was the United States Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.

Dr. Alex Levin, from the Muhlenberg class of 1978, will also be receiving an honorary degree is currently board certified in pediatrics and opthamology. Following his graduation from Muhlenberg, he earned a master's degree in bioethics from the University of Toronto in 2001, and he received an Alumni Achievement award from there in 2013. He is the chief of the Wills Eye Pediatric Ophthalmology and Ocular Genetics Service in Philadelphia.

Levin is often included in peer-reviewed journals, and has received numerous honors, including: The Investigator Award from Prevent Blindness America in 2012, The Helfer Award from The Ray Helfer Society in 2011 and recognition from Children′s Glaucoma Foundation in 2017.

Students can attend a discussion session with each honorary degree recipient on Saturday, May 18 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Baker Center for the Arts.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

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The Muhlenberg Weekly strives for accuracy in reporting and writing, but we acknowledge that mistakes happen. Readers are invited to submit corrections about errors in articles, and they should be submitted to weeklyeditor@gmail.com. Corrections are also brought to our staff's attention by our own editors and writers. Our staff will review the suggested correction, consult with the author of the article, and issue the appropriate correction. Online corrections are located at the bottom of the article. Print corrections are located within the paper, on the page indicated in the online edition. However, The Weekly does not grant take-down requests for articles.

ADVERTISING POLICY

We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

Monday, February 18

Fire alarm - 7:15 p.m.
Report of fire alarm at the Courts from a blow dryer. System silenced and reset.

Sick student - 11:02 p.m.
Report of sick student at Prosser Hall. Allentown EMS responded and student was transported to the hospital.

Tuesday, February 19

Found property - 11:53 a.m.
Report of found social security card at Seegers Union. Care was placed in lost and found locker.

Alarm - 5:37 p.m.
Report of alarm at Brown Hall. Upon arrival nothing could be found, no further incident.

Drug violation - 10:05 p.m.
Report of possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia at North 23rd Street. Individuals identified and spoken to, items brought to Campus Safety and placed in evidence locker.

Wednesday, February 20

Odor - 12:42 a.m.
Report of suspicious odor at Prosser Hall. Upon arrival it was found that an air vaporizing device was in use.

Roof shenanigans - 5:31 p.m.
Report of student on roof at a residence on Tilghman Street. Upon arrival, no one was on the roof.

Sick student - 5:55 p.m.
Report of sick student at Martin Luther Hall. Muhlenberg EMS responded and student was transported to the hospital.

Thursday, February 21

Noise complaint - 10:53 p.m.
Report of noise complaint at North 22cnd Street. Individuals spoken to, no further incident.

Friday, February 22

CO2 alarm - 1:59 a.m.
Report of CO2 alarm at Benfer Hall. Allentown Fire Department responded and checked the area but did no detect any CO2.

Found property - 1:30 a.m.
Report of found phone at Moyer Hall, it was placed in lost and found locker.

Leak - 4:01 a.m.
Report of a leak in Taylor Hall. Residential Services was notified and Plant Operations was notified to repair.

Found property - 4:22 p.m.
Report of found credit card at Seegers Union, it was placed in lost and found locker.

Sick student - 5:43 p.m.
Report of sick student in Martin Luther Hall.

Welfare check - 7:10 p.m.
Report to locate student in Prosser Hall. Contact was made and there is no further incident.

Injured student - 8:35 p.m.
Report of injured student in South Hall. Student transported to the hospital by Campus Safety.

Saturday, February 23

Injured student - 4:09 p.m.
Report of injured student in Trexler Pavilion. Allentown EMS responded and student was transported to the hospital by a friend.

Traffic accident - 4:50 p.m.
Report of vehicle hitting the pedestrian crossing sign at Prosser Lot, causing minor damage to the sign. Individual identified and spoken to. No further incident.

Sunday, February 24

Fire alarm - 4:00 p.m.
Report of fire alarm in South Hall from burnt food. System silenced and reset.

the Mobile Mule
go Mules... Kick Ass!
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Follow us!
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the Mobile Mule Upcoming Dates!

March 22nd - Villages - Late Night
April 3rd - Brown Mall - Dinner
April 16th - Courts - Lunch
May 3rd - Hoffman House - Late Night

Follow us @bergdining for updates!

Café Frais property to be bought by local real estate developer

Haris Bhatti / The Muhlenberg Weekly

By Laura Schwarz
Asst. News Editor

Since Café Frais' closing last September, the storefront at the corner of Liberty and 23rd street has sat empty. That's soon to change, as the property is being purchased by The Scherline Group, a real estate development group owned by Lyell Scherline. A family business grown in Allentown, the group owns property in Pennsylvania, Florida and New York.

With the future plans for the property currently uncertain, Scherline has been working with several classes at Muhlenberg to ascertain what students really want to see from a future business.

"We have been collaborating with a few classes in the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Program at Muhlenberg to find out what the students think would be the best option for the space," says Scherline. "We wanted to give the students the opportunity to participate in this exploratory process with us."

Although the style of food that would be offered has yet to be decided, students have been clear with what they would value in an off-campus dining option.

"Feedback so far from the student community has greatly expressed the desire for affordable prices, a student friendly and cozy environment and a need for late night food options," explains Scherline. "We will take all this into consideration in our development phase to give the students as well as the local community what they want."

When it was open, Café Frais had planned to provide a 'straight to dorm' delivery service, a perk Scherline is open to pursuing as well.

"We are definitely exploring this route," says Scherline. "As the students from the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Program have informed us that this food delivery service is something that is enticing to the students and very little of this type of service is currently offered on campus."

Currently, aside from the popular Tavern on Liberty, there are few options for off-campus dining in close proximity to dorms. A new café or restaurant on this property could be an enticing addition to the Muhlenberg community. When Cafe Frais was soon to open in 2017, some students were drawn to the restaurant's convenient location.

"The idea of getting food without having to go get it is divine, and that it's a walkable off campus option is also appealing," said Eric Steinbach '19.

Scherline's work with entrepreneurship students is evidence of the group's willingness to listen to students' needs and desires to create a beneficial and successful campus business.

"We would love to work with the Muhlenberg student community to provide job opportunities, student discounts and anything else to make our new home on campus as accommodating as possible for everyone," Scherline assures.

UPDATES TO THE ANTI-HAZING POLICY

This semester, Muhlenberg College released a detailed report of all allegations of hazing that occured within the last five years.

The report is in accordance with the newly enacted Timothy J. Piazza Anti-Hazing Law

GOALS OF THE UPDATED POLICY AND LAW

Transparency

Prevention

Enforcement

THE REPORT

8 allegations of hazing since 2014

5	2	1
Social Sororities	Social Fraternities	Service Fraternity

3 of the reported instances resulted in a charge

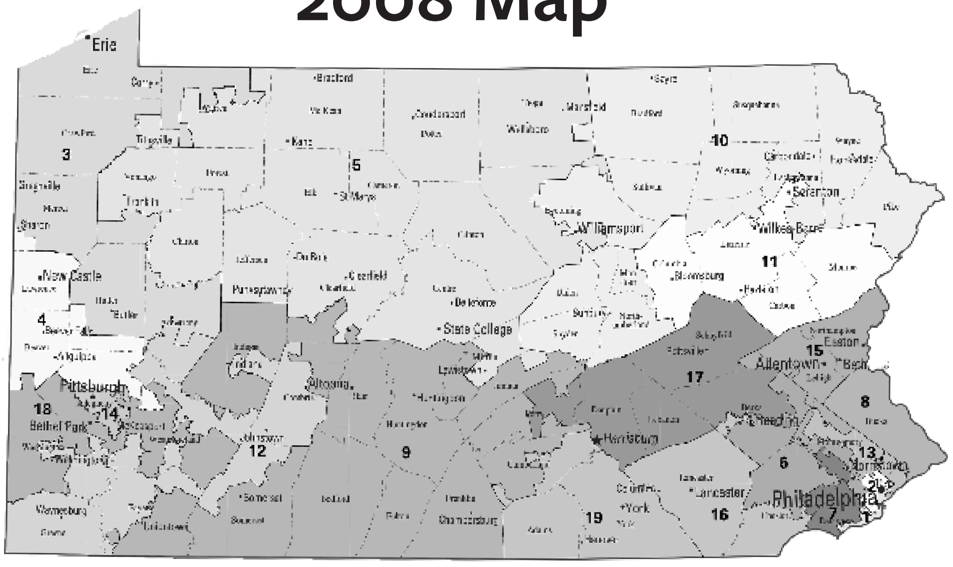
2 of the social sororities were reported more than once

For more information on the updated anti-hazing policy, please visit the Muhlenberg College Judicial Affairs Web Page

Divide the map and conquer

Political panelists address gerrymandering in statewide town hall

2008 Map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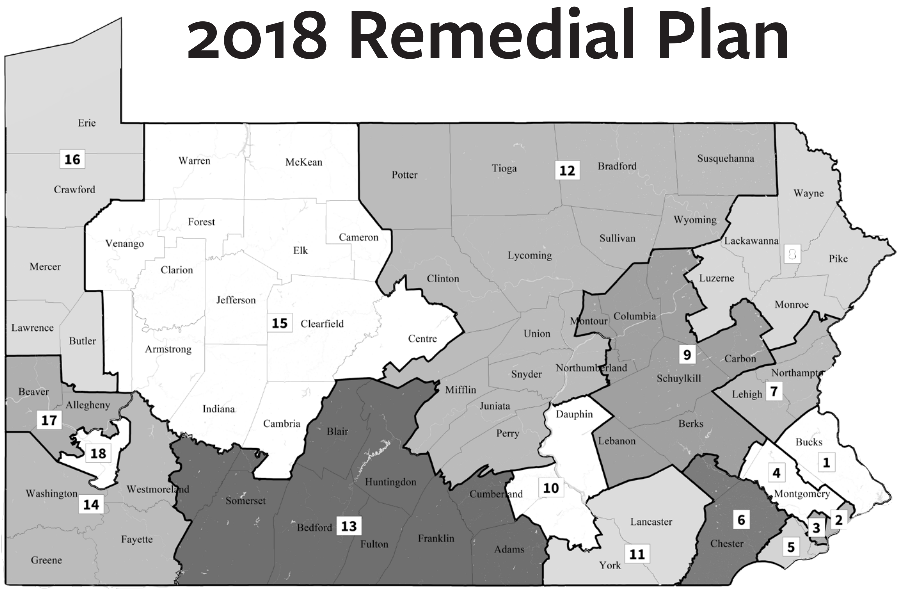
2018 Remedial Plan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By Sydney Coplin
News Editor

"Eight years ago, I was a citizen just interested in being informed in who I would vote for on Election Day; I never thought that I would end up before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court," said Amanda Holt, Lehigh County Commissioner, during the first panel of Pennsylvania's Statewide Town Hall on Redistricting on Thursday, Feb. 21. The event was hosted on Muhlenberg's campus, but live streamed along with over a dozen other institutions across the state each participating in their own campus discussions.

Redistricting, or redrawing a state's congressional districts on a map, takes place every 10 years, following the Census. The last redistricting took place in 2012, and will occur once again in 2022.

"In Pennsylvania, the process for drawing lines is controlled by the legislature and requires the approval of the Governor," explained panelist Chris Borick, Muhlenberg College Professor of Political Science & Director of the Muhlenberg College Institute for Public Opinion. "Thus, when a party is in the majority in both houses, and the governor is also of that party at the time of redistricting, the process is prone to partisan preferences [gerrymandering]."

Holt explained how she first noticed issues of gerrymandering in Pennsylvania's congressional map when she started questioning why her own congressional district included an entire county except for a small portion of people.

From that realization, her curiosity was piqued, and she began to redraw the congressional districts in a way that, to her, was more logical.

"If you're not angry, then you're not paying attention."

"A little common sense is all it required," she joked, in regard to redrawing the map.

When she took her drawings to the Legislative Reapportionment Commission, the members refused to listen to her, which is what led her to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, in a new attempt to address the issue.

"So with no legal training, no co-plaintiffs, and no lawyers, I tried to figure out how to present a case to the Supreme Court," said Holt. "I even called the administrative office to get some help with that."

While Holt did win the initial case, there still were no significant changes made to the map; redistricting rules were still ignored, and there was no accountability taken. She went back to the PA Supreme Court, but did not prevail in the second case.

Holt encourages people to visit DrawTheLinesPa.com, to work out their own ways of drawing maps that are accurate, fair and representative.

Jill Greene, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania League of Women Voters, was another panelist who has a long history of working with issues of redistricting. Her "nonpartisan grassroots member-led organization" has been fighting for a fair process in redistricting for over 40 years.

One of the most shocking findings that she discussed was how, in 2001, Montgomery Township, Pa. was divided into four separate districts.

"We wound up with maps created in secret, adopted in a very unquestionable way," explained Greene. "We wound up with maps that were still not adequate to serve the needs of Pennsylvania."

Like Holt, Greene's organization also made attempts to draw the congressional districts to be more compact and continuous. In addition to their own redrawing: From 2007-2008 they lobbied for an amendment to the PA Constitution, in 2008 they attempted redistricting reforms and in 2011 they worked on a campaign for transparency and fairness in the upcoming redistricting process, among many other efforts.

"We're going to keep going until it's done and done right," concluded Greene.

The final panelist for that portion of the town hall was Carol Kuniholm, Fair Districts PA Chair. Kuniholm continuously emphasized that Pennsylvania is within the top five worst congressional maps in terms of gerrymandering in the entire country.

"In 2018, our state legislative districts were 50 percent worse than the two next most badly gerrymandered states: Michigan and North Carolina," explained Kuniholm.

A proclamation that she repeated throughout her discussion was that "if you're not angry, then you're not paying attention."

A specific instance of gerrymandering that Kuniholm pointed out was how in Butler County, Pa. a university town was isolated so that it would not affect the rest of the county.

"In 2018, our state legislative districts were 50 percent worse than the two next most badly gerrymandered states."

Like many of the other panelists, she encouraged an independent redistricting commission, rather than it being done by state legislatures.

She described a cycle of how this redistricting continues to occur: leaders draw district lines, districts are distorted to protect incumbents, incumbents with seniority write the law and then there are unfair procedural processes blocking reform– and thus the cycle continues.

"Unless we find a way to break that tight knot of dysfunction, whatever those policies are that you care about, it's not going to happen." Kuniholm proclaimed.

The following panel consisted of Congresswoman Susan Wild of Pennsylvania's 7th district, Benjamin Lieberman ′19 from Muhlenberg and Rubi Garcia '19 from Cedar Crest College.

Lieberman introduced their panel by providing a statistical approach to understanding how gerrymandering may unfairly represent districts. Garcia discussed how bringing up the issue of gerrymandering has led to her receiving criticism due to the controversy surrounding it.

Wild added her support for more fair practices for redistricting, as well as providing specific commentary for her district, which includes the Lehigh Valley.

"I welcome the idea of redrawing these maps," expressed Wild. "I do believe that we have to do it by way of independent commissions."

She explained how her district is "very purple," where it is quite split between the republicans and the democrats.

"The main argument from our point of view is that the new map brings all of the Lehigh Valley together," said Wild. "To me, that just makes logical sense."

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"Music is the shorthand of emotion."

— Leo Tolstoy

Sasson Lonner / The Muhlenberg Weekly

The Vaughns take the stage in Miller Forum, Moyer Hall. Band members include Anna Lies, Tom Losito, David Cacciatore and Ryan Kenter.

Meet the Bad Bad Hats and Vaughns

A WMUH-sponsored event

By Lauren D. Mazur
Arts & Culture Editor

Last Saturday, Feb. 23, WMUH hosted two bands on Muhlenberg's campus in Moyer Hall Miller Forum. Featuring various snacks and beverages, the event was scheduled at 11:15 in the evening. Walking in, the colorful lights flashed brightly around the stage and occupants, and the stage was all set with the Bad Bad Hats' instruments on stand-by.

Starting in Minneapolis, Minn., the Bad Bad Hats is an indie rock group named after the Madeline children's book series. The group is made up of three members: Kerry Alexander (Guitarist and Vocalists), Chris Hoge (Guitar/Bass) and Connor Davison (Drums). Connecting to the audience rather well, Alexander recounted the process and overall enjoyment of making the music videos for many of the songs they performed that night. One such song, was "Nothing Gets Me High."

With the drums playing a soft swing in the background, Alexander's voice takes on a low and raspy tone.

"And I would love if you loved me," the bass accompanies with and countering bass line, as her voice rises the bass flows downward.

"I thought both of the bands were good and I overall enjoyed the concert."

"I wish I was seventeen again, back when love really moved me," she turns to the drum, synchronized the play on beat together, "but that was then, yeah."

Catchy, but smooth, it's near impossible not to dance along, or sing along once the chorus repeats for a third time.

"Still me writing love songs," Alexander explains in an interview, "catchy melodies...something a bit looser and spontaneous."

The music videos too, are very entertaining. Taking Alexander's advice, I found the video is set in a room of television sets which appear and disappear throughout the piece. Each shows a scene or snippet of a life or moment, passing by to the music. It's oddly fitting that the song ends with the bass trailing off into a voidless abyss of silence.

Alexander is both the lyricist for her band as well as other solo acts throughout her career. She describes her beginning when her father gave her a guitar in middle school.

"When I got that guitar, it was like a whole new world was open to me. In some ways it felt like I was learning an entirely new instrument. But it was a great source of inspiration for that reason."

A second song, which they described the making of the music video in more detail, was more about describing and emulating a 'journey'—particularly in the process of songwriting. This piece is simply called "Girl."

The majority of the video is the band in motion, traveling from place to place, jumping from vehicle to vehicle, all of which transition throughout shots of the musicians making music.

The Vaughns performed next, shifting from the soft swing of the Bad Bad Hats to cold hard rock with a touch of synthesizer. Formed in early 2014, The Vaughns are made up of four members: Anna Lies, Tom Losito, David Cacciatore and Ryan Kenter.

Each shows a scene or snippet of a life or moment, passing by to the music.

One of their big hits is the single "Santa Cruz" which gained national recognition in 2017-2018. Featuring a very rhythmic and an energized bass line, the piece kicks off into a loud and upbeat beginning. Very distinct from the previous band.

Audience members seemed to react well to the concert as a whole, bopping and moving to the dual genres throughout the night.

"I thought both of the bands were good and I overall enjoyed the concert," said Rachel Legow '19 said when I asked her opinion of the concert. She did feel, however, that the event was not as advertised as well as it could have been. Legow explains that she had only attended the event because her friend had told her about it in passing.

"The bands were definitely complete unknowns to me and weren't my usual genre of music, but I actually had a really great time," said Jacob Borislow '19. "I don't know if it was just how loud they were playing or the fun vibe but I was definitely bopping to the songs. I think the turnout was also more than usual which was great to see the Muhlenberg and Allentown community coming out for some local music."

Artist of the Week: Gabe Walsh-Shore

By Arielle Moss
Asst. Arts & Culture Editor

Arielle Moss / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Gabe Walsh-Shore ‘22 plans his set for his radio show Bits & Pieces.

“Video game music is what I have been listening to ever since I got into playing video games,” said Gabe Walsh-Shore ‘22.

Walsh-Shore, taking on the Math and Theater double major in the Education department, has been a DJ for Muhlenberg’s radio station since the beginning of his freshman year.

He signed up to be a part of radio at the Fall activities fair and felt that this would be great practice for his future interests. That being, becoming a voice actor for cartoons or an anime dubbing project. To him, DJing seemed like a nice stepping stone towards that goal.

He soon realized, however, that there’s another reason for his contribution, that being, the music he features.

“I also get to share a very unusual type of music genre,” Walsh-Shore explains. “[One] that I really like and get to share it with the world and it’s really cool.”

Walsh-Shore’s show Bits & Pieces airs from the radio station in Walson Hall on Monday evenings from eight to ten. Bits & Pieces is a show which plays only music tracks from video games. Walsh-Shore draws his inspiration from the various video games he plays.

“I’ve played video games since I was very young and the music has always had a big impression on me,” said Walsh-Shore.

Walsh-Shore explained how video game music reminds people of a game they used to play and allows them to relive the memory of that game. To explain this further, he uses the Mario theme song as an example.

“If you heard it [the Mario theme song] just the first few notes of it—Bam you recognize: ‘oh that’s Mario’ and you get a whole image of Mario and all these experiences you’ve had with him and that has always interested me,” said Walsh-Shore. “Like how can you get an entire world just by listening to video game music.”

One of the greatest challenges Walsh-Shore has with his show is preparing the tracklist. To prepare for his weekly show, Walsh-Shore takes a few hours to find tracks and creates playlists by downloading music off of YouTube.

Each week, Walsh-Shore makes sure that he plays tracks that he not only enjoys, but creates a significant diversity for his audience to listen to.

Although he is a big fan of the Super Mario tracks, he also makes sure to play other video game tunes, searching the internet for tracks from video games he may or may not have ever heard or played before. Walsh-Shore makes sure that each track is different and that he does not repeat a track that was played in the previous show.

Each track lasts about two and a half minutes, so for each show, at least forty tracks are prepared to fill up the entirety of the two hours.

Walsh-Shore also finds talking on the radio challenging. “You don’t want to have pauses or dead air so you just have to keep talking and try to find something to say,” Walsh-Shore describes, “but that’s a nice challenge. I like that.”

Tending to not talk a lot on the radio, Walsh-Shore often lets the music speak for itself. However, moments in between songs, he may add past and upcoming titles, as well as some facts regarding the games in question. A new aspect Walsh-Shore added to his show is to give his listeners an update on the headlines in the video game industry, such as the release of a new game.

When asked what his favorite part about radio was, Walsh-Shore said that it was getting to share the music that he really loves with the hope that somebody will remember or get a feeling of nostalgia when they hear a soundtrack they recognized from a game that they played years ago and have them say “oh, I remember that.”

“I love that feeling of being in this world [of video games] and it always has had great impression and I want to share it and hopefully it will connect with others. That’s what started my show,” said Walsh-Shore.

Although he finds talking a challenge, Walsh-Shore holds a love for being able to just say his opinion with the knowledge that an audience of people are tuned in to his program.

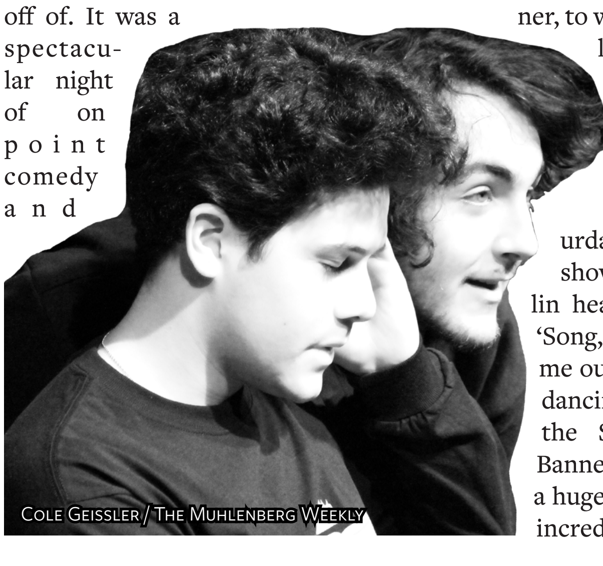
Walsh-Shore said that he is really thankful for this. “I love that compared to watching a movie or a TV show there is a different form of interaction between the player and the game.” Walsh-Shore said, “The pattern with all of those games that I really like is that they all have a story to them and I love stories. I love telling stories and experiencing stories.”

Take five: MIA snaps to action

By Lauren D. Mazur
Arts & Culture Editor

The bell rang loudly as the night’s wrestlemania began without any delay—last Saturday, Feb. 23, the Muhlenberg Improv Association (MIA) began their “fight to the death” for our personal entertainment. Throughout the night, a series of improv games occured in which the audience gives the name of a place, a person, or some subject for the performers to improv off of. It was a spectacular night of on point comedy and overall really impressive display of talent.

“During the show, I was playing world’s worst scenes from a hat with my good and very talented friend Colin Hauck,” explained Max Wiener ‘22. “The category was ‘Worst first-dance song at a wedding.’ Earlier in the semester, we played the same game with a different category: ‘World’s worst song lyric used in a sentence.’ Colin brought me out, and started speaking [to] me the Star-Spangled Banner, to which we both laughed, and it became one of our finest moments. During [Saturday night’s] show, once Colin heard the word ‘Song,’ he brought me out, began slow dancing, and sang the Star-Spangled Banner, and it got a huge laugh. It was incredible.”


Cole Geissler / The Muhlenberg Weekly

In his first year with MIA, Wiener expresses the outright joy in being a part of the group. This performance was no different as the excitement seemed to infest every performer and every audience member—truly a sight to behold.

“The process for planning shows is so fun and laid back,” Wiener explained, “We basically just goof around for a semester, while also working hard to figure out which games best showcase the talents of the ensemble. Everyone gets the chance to showcase who they are as a performer, and we as a group recognize each other’s individual talent and figure out where it works best in the show.”

One game that I particularly enjoyed was the “I object” series, in which an audience member was picked to play the “judge” role. The rules were simple. A subject will be picked for the performers to improv off of—this subject will have something to do with favorites. An example, favorite ice cream flavors, or favorite movies, books, etc. Once picked, a performer will step up and argue why their type (in the category chose) is the best. While they are arguing, any member of the team can say “I object” and give a reason why. The judge then will give either a thumbs up (approval) or thumbs down (rejected). If approved, then the objector takes their place and begins to argue their best type in question. If rejected, the original performer continues to argue their point until objected again. For this round the topic was smoothies. Like rockets the performers shot out of their seats to center stage, ready to find and defend their smoothie flavor to the death. In one particular moment a performer tried to argue for the best smoothie being a vegetable smoothie, to which an objector replied, “no one likes vegetable smoothies.” The thumb went up in agreement.

“We also pick games that we all love to play,” Wiener reminisced, “[this] makes the show essentially just another rehearsal.”

Another game was a detective/mystery parody in which three performers sat on stage in a line, while another went out of the room. Engaging with the audience, three subject terms were given in the Clue game style: Who did it, with what weapon, and where. It was decided that Queen Elizabeth was the murderer, a tooth was the murder weapon, and a swimming pool was the scene of the crime.

Returning to the stage, the performer who stepped out was the detective, who now had to ask the other three questions to figure out the murder, the weapon, and the scene. What resulted was a series of hilarious scenarios. The detective, who adopted a humorous Russian accent, attempted to rile the suspects up in mock sincerity. In turn, said suspects engaged in clever word play that slowly dropped clues of who (or what) they were.

Overall, the performance was fantastic. Truly an enjoyable time that I suggest all to attend in the future.

Celebrating African American Progress: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

By Chloe Gravereaux
Editor-in-Chief

Photo Courtesy of Office of Communications

Robin Riley-Casey presents Clyde Bosket with a poster of himself to be added to the collection of prominent African American leaders.

Rejoice Gospel Choir marched single-file down the aisles of the packed Miller Forum, Moyer hall, clapping and stomping to keep time. Their voices swelled in the room, the thunder of their many boots and jingles of clothing reverberating off the walls while the audience sat silent in their seats, as the choir pooled at the foot of the stage.

"Keep on walking," sang the group of students, swaying like a wave as Eric Thompson conducted them.

So began the celebration of African American progress that was Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow: a Retrospective Heritage Celebration held on the last Friday of Black History Month from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in Miller Forum, Moyer Hall. The event reached out beyond Muhlenberg, who partnered with the African American Business Leaders Council (AABLC), an organization that works to recognize African American progress in the Lehigh Valley area. Song and dance by Muhlenberg students honoring African American and black history broke up stories of success in the march towards progress.

Marie Grace Imanariyo '20, a student from Rwanda, opened with a prayer for relationships free of bias and hate in favor of those that are just and joyful. Robin Riley-Casey, Director of Multicultural Life and Roberta Meek, Lecturer of Media & Communication and History, the main Muhlenberg organizers of the event, welcomed those in attendance.

Clyde Bosket, a crowd favorite, ascended the stage with a walker and a bright red suit to speak on the values of yesterday. His son, a member of AABLC, introduced the 89-year-old as a proponent of faith and education, who worked everywhere from food trucks to mobile barber shops. He spoke of a simple life, saying God only gives you one heart, and two neckties are too many.

"One day at a time. That's all I'm asking of you," he sang at the podium in a rich voice that rang clear as a bell.

Riley-Casey stepped forward. When she first came to Allentown in 2009, she said, she met Clyde Bosket through a friend's recommendation of a barber in the Allentown Farmer's Market.

"You welcomed me to Allentown," said Riley-Casey to Bosket. "And I will never forget that."

Riley-Casey presented him with his own poster, to be placed among those of famous African Americans posted around campus this month. In honor of him, the Men of Color Network on campus has established "barbershop conversations."

Thomas Parker, Superintendent for the Allentown School district, is both the youngest and first African American to hold his position. Parker presented statistics about African Americans in places of power today, and the lack of reflection on self in leadership. Of the 33 percent PA students of color, compared to four percent teachers of color. Only two percent of teachers nationwide are black men.

Following Parker was Straight from the Roots, a dance group of four freshmen choreographed by Jalil Robinson '22. The four dancers were clothed in a traditionally printed African top, and their moves were improvisation based on dances from their own unique heritages. Riley-Casey suggested the dance group.

"The first piece was African drums," said Robinson. "That was historical. Then we jump into modern dance to show how we changed overtime, how we became more individualized and creative, taking our culture and translating it into America but still maintaining our actual roots."

Representing tomorrow was Nate Wiggley '19, Black Student Association President, and Steven Smith '19, Men of Color Network President and curator of Black History Month posters. Smith told the story of the founding of his club, and how they started as a group of five men who came to Smith's room to talk about everything. The crowd left on a high note, giving hugs and high fives to performers.

Throughout it all, just off to the side, was a booth selling tee shirts, posters, and booklets. They featured a Periodic Table of African Americans, designed by author Floyd Stokes.

"I actually saw someone wearing a periodic table of superheros," said Stokes. "My superheros are the African Americans who helped pave the way for us to be where we are."

The turnout was more than expected, and earned praise from many attendants.

"I was so thrilled to see the terrific turnout and fantastic components of what was an outstanding celebration of Black History Month on Saturday," said Muhlenberg President John I. Williams. "Kudos to everyone who was involved in producing this fabulous celebration."

A crowning achievement: Caroline McKenna's senior recital

By Caya Greenspan-Layman
Contributing Writer

Music majors come from a variety of backgrounds and forge unique paths during their time at Muhlenberg. For vocalist Caroline McKenna '19, music has been an important part of her life for a long time.

"I started singing when I was three or four years old, and I loved singing musical theater," McKenna said.

Starting her career as an attendee to a performing arts school in fourth grade, McKenna began her ascent in which she nurtured her love of music and theater. "Originally when I came [to Muhlenberg] I was going to major in music and theater, but then I decided to just go into music because I love singing." McKenna holds a concentration in vocal performance.

Despite her decision to set theater aside, show tunes remained an important part of McKenna's repertoire. At her senior recital on Feb. 23, McKenna showcased her musical versatility. Her program included music from the Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and twentieth century periods of classical music, along with a set of show tunes from musicals including *The Music Man* and *Natasha, Pierre, and the Great Comet of 1812*. McKenna sang effortlessly in German, French, Italian, and English.

The program included works by Schubert, Fauré, and Donaudy, all of whom Caroline described as "my favorite composers." She was particularly enthusiastic about "Gretchen am Spinnrade" by Schubert. Gretchen, a character from Göethe's *Faust*, sings of her love for Faust and her fear that they will not be together.

"Gretchen is at the spinning wheel . . . and the piano sounds like the spinning wheel," McKenna said. While the piano rippled in the background, McKenna illustrated Gretchen's longing and heartbreak in a beautiful rendition that left the audience in somber quiet.

McKenna was also looked forward to sharing "Mai," by Gabriel Fauré, with her audience. The song's lyrics call to mind the beauty of spring. "It's about the springtime and how it compares [in beauty] to the guy she loves," McKenna describes.

Captivating her audience with her impressive vocal range and thoughtful expression, McKenna gave a whole new meaning to the songs she sang.

While her rendition of "Gretchen am Spinnrade" conveyed Gretchen's heartbreak, McKenna infused her voice with the sweetness of spring for "Mai." She sang "Après un rêve" in a haunting manner which rang through the Chapel with all the mystery of a half-lost memory. Yet in "Vaghissima sembianza," in which a man is enchanted by the portrait of a woman, McKenna's voice took on the dreamy, light-hearted quality of new love. She reached high notes with enviable ease and charmed her audience with hand gestures which illustrated the content of the music.

McKenna's love of musical theater was apparent in her final set of showtunes. During "My White Knight," the audience chuckled at the line: "And I would like him to be more interested in me . . . than he is in himself. / And more interested in us than in me." "Only Love" was the quietest song on the program, and its quietness made it an intimate and enchanting experience for the audience. After each song McKenna sang, the audience burst into enthusiastic applause.

McKenna said she has enjoyed several experiences she has had in the music department, and she has been continuously inspired by the faculty. Her voice instructor, Patricia Budlong, has been very important in McKenna's studies.

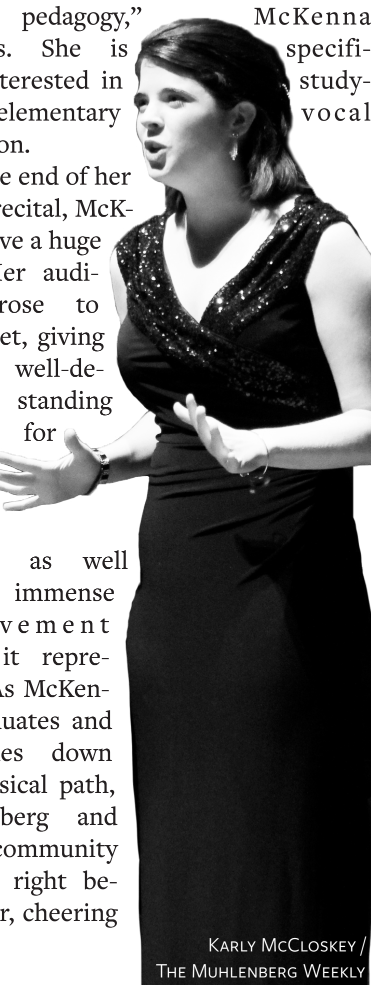
"She's the greatest vocal teacher I know," McKenna said. "I've really learned a lot from her. I've worked with her for four years, and we worked on so many great songs together." Budlong helped McKenna fall in love with classical music, encouraging her to open her mind to other kinds of music. "She'll work on anything with you," McKenna said fondly, "and that's really great."

McKenna has enjoyed other opportunities on campus, as well. "I was in the opera workshop with Brian Chu a couple years ago, and we performed the opera *Carmen*. . . . That was a great experience."

Currently working in an internship under Dr. Christopher Jackson, McKenna conducts the Women's Ensemble—she explains, "It gives me a good chance to teach and conduct the choir, and just getting out of my comfort zone—I think that's really inspiring."

Looking towards the future, McKenna says she plans to attend graduate school. "I'm thinking of becoming a teacher in vocal pedagogy," McKenna explains. She is specifically interested in studying elementary vocal education.

At the end of her senior recital, McKenna gave a huge bow. Her audience rose to their feet, giving her a well-deserved standing ovation for the excellent concert as well as the immense achievement which it represents. As McKenna graduates and continues down her musical path, Muhlenberg and its community will be right behind her, cheering her on.



Karly McCloskey / The Muhlenberg Weekly

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

Emotions that run high get eyes

Editorial

Last week the article "The uncomfortable truth about a capella" was published in the Op/Ed section of the Muhlenberg Weekly and set off a chain reaction across social media. One week after its publication, there are 5,000 views on the article, making it The Weekly's fourth-most read article ever. It is topped only by an article about Muhlenberg's ice hockey program being disbanded, the passing of legendary Muhlenberg football coach Mike 'Duke' Donnelly and an article on an armed robbery on campus two years ago. "The uncomfortable truth with a capella" is an article on why The Weekly's Opinions and Editorials Editor and comedian Will Wamser dislikes a capella performances. His main argument: it's repetitive.

Almost immediately after publication online, it was shared on a private Facebook by a Muhlenberg student and from there shared by others to at least two a capella facebook groups.

Most of the comments encountered by our staff appear to be a mixture of articulating love for a capella, saying the argument is true, commenting on the writing, poking fun at Wamser, offering different perspectives, recommending different a capella groups to listen to, talking about the joy of singing your favorite songs as a group on stage, etc. Some responded with gifs and memes, one being a photo of a Simpsons newspaper clipping reading "Old man yells at cloud." To be clear: this engagement is encouraged, and as Wamser says in his article below, is what he was looking for. Namely, why do people enjoy this?

What was not okay, however, were the uncomfortably personal and/or violent responses such as "[Will Wamser] does, however win the JDA (Journalism Dipshit Award)," and "Rip his arm off and beat him with it...loser."

As an adult or student, is this really what you want to be known for, even in your closed and private Facebook friend group? Is this the kind of campus we are? Threaten a writer for his opinion? Really?

But the big question: Why this article? Why this response?

The Weekly has published more upsetting articles this semester alone. Look to the Feb. 7 editorial, "Systematic racism in medicine and more," an article on the high mortality rates of black women due to systematic racism within the medical industry. The article called for us to consider how to fight something ingrained within our society that is killed disenfranchised people. Or think about the editorial from Feb. 14, "The arrest of 21 Savage," on ICE unjustly arresting the rapper 21 Savage and their numerous human rights violations. Or even "Why I wanted to stay silent and you said 'no,'" a letter from an anonymous student about how they were sexually assaulted and then forcible implicated in another sexual assault case with the same assaulter by Muhlenberg's Title IX. Why did an article about a capella bring about a greater response than articles calling out the dangers and abuses of power ingrained into our society?

An analysis of 70,000 news articles from the four top news sources found that the more sentiment a headline expressed (positive or negative) the more likely it was to be "engaged with" on Facebook, meaning liked, shared, disliked, etc. "The uncomfortable truth of a capella" very much fits that description.

In other words, Wamser's article was destined for engagement before it left the page- a title like that will incite the response it did. But what's an even more upsetting is the kind of articles that didn't get this attention.

Additionally, the majority of the posts about the article were mostly engaging with the writer and not the topic. All of the articles previously mentioned might incite anger towards institutions, but not the writers. An author at the New York Times wrote an equally humorous-but-serious article on how to stop global warming: by pretending it's aliens doing it. His point is humorous and simple: give us an enemy and we will fight against it, an enemy we can see. An "other" who is not us; we don't want to admit that we are doing anything wrong.

So what did we learn from this? Public outrage is a powerful tool. Emotions that run high get eyes.

On the other hand, look what happened. A set of 700 words spread to 5,000 eyes in less than a week through sharing, engagement, a dialogue. Can you imagine what good it can do? For anything from a GoFundMe to a petition? Why not use this power to spread relief, funds, acceptance, rather than to spread hate. That same study mentioned earlier found that people tend to share more positive news for fear of being viewed as negative. So the next time you hit that share button, you might want to ask: am I doing good? Is this worth it? Is it helping?

* * *

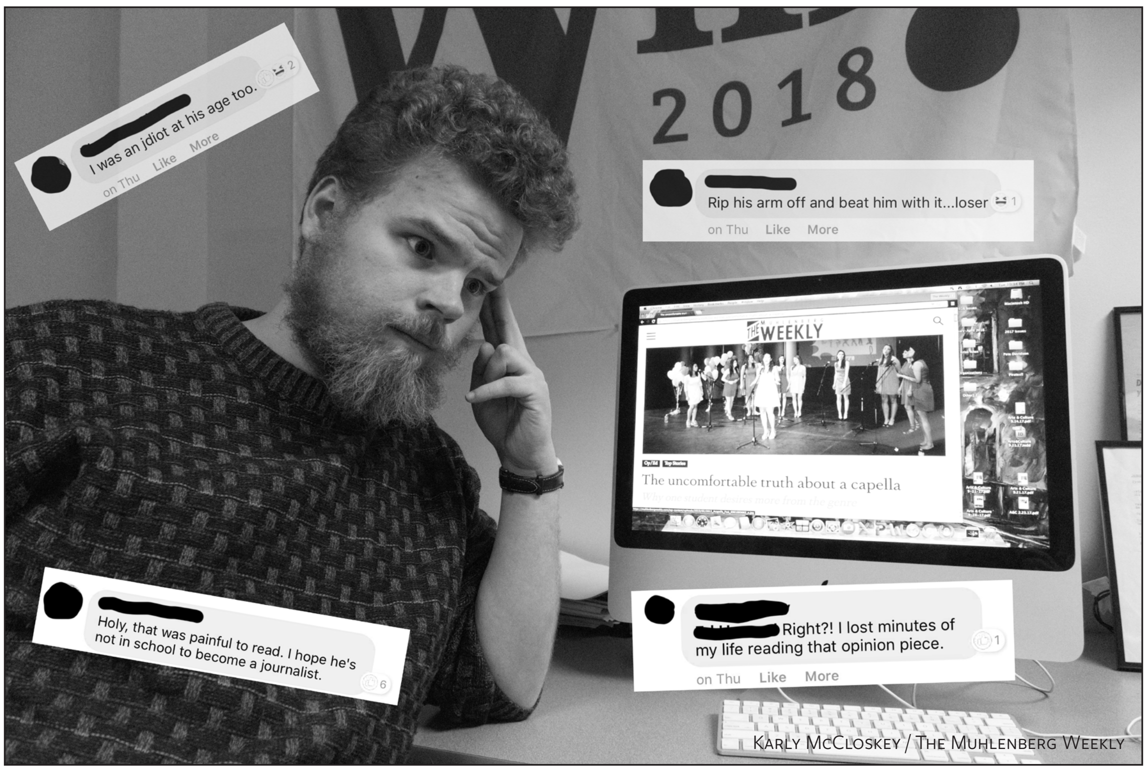
Will Wamser writes about a capella again

By Will Wamser
Op/Ed Editor

Yikes, here I go again! If you are someone who was unhappy with my previous article on a capella, "The uncomfortable truth about a capella," I implore you read to the end because I heard you and want to make things right. For those of you who somehow don't know, last week I wrote a fantastic article, honestly one of the best, about a capella, I won't bore you with the details but I basically don't like a capella and think that we should be expecting more from the groups here at Muhlenberg. I also want to be super clear right off the bat, the article was not satire, it was just criticism. I'd argue that this is my most popular article to date, having around 5000 views as of less than a week of it's publishing, not too bad for this old man. I hate to brag, but people must love my article!! At least I thought so.

The reviews came in quick, within the first couple hours of the article being available to read it was already being shared all over the place, mostly by Muhlenberg a capella students. It looked like I was in trouble, and I was! People were mean!

People were calling me names. I was called an "idiot," I'm not. Someone called me an "a-hole," but I'm a boy. I was even called a "douchebag," and my mom won't even tell me what that means!! One person suggested that I was drinking "dumbass juice," which regardless of whether or not it's true, shouldn't have been said. Someone else said that I won the "JDA" or the "Journalism Dipshit Award" and while I'm honored I feel that this was uncalled for. The point is that everyone was just being a bunch of jerks.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The uncomfortable truth about a capella
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[redacted]
I was an idiot at his age too.

[redacted]
Rip his arm off and beat him with it...loser

[redacted]
Holy, that was painful to read. I hope he's not in school to become a journalist.

[redacted]
[redacted] Right?! I lost minutes of my life reading that opinion piece.

Karly McCloskey / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Will Wamser '20 overwhelmed by the thoughts of multiple mean comments directed towards him.

I am writing this article for those people. So if you are someone who commented on a post or posted my article with some comment on my intellege or my skills as a writer or my general being then this is for you. You also hurt my feelings, good job. You guys made me feel bad. But I don't even care. I'm actually glad that you guys didn't like the article. You guys shouldn't have been mean! Like, who's mean? Mean people, that's who. And it's not even like my first article was being mean to you, I actually think I was being pretty cool there, but no everyone had to go and call me names, you losers! I don't even care. I don't care that I could feel eyes on me as I walked through Seegers. I don't care that my friends had to defend me to people, that's actually a cool thing that they had to do. I don't even care that I could hear my name whispered in the dining hall, I definitely didn't feel uncomfortable being on my campus.

Also for everyone who was mad, so many more people secretly told me they agreed, I can't say who. But a lot of people agree behind closed doors. Honestly, I'm happy that everyone was mean, it just shows I'm right and surprisingly brave. If a capella was so good then why would so many people care so much that one idiot didn't like it? Because I'm right and handsome and cool and hot! I'm not crying! I'm not even sad anymore. I'm actually mad. Sad becomes mad when the lad gets had.

I'm freaking pissed, I'm an outcast now! All because I don't like a capella? What the hella? I'm mad because nothing happened. I wanted people to talk about my article, to think about what a capella is and could be, but instead proverbial tomatoes were thrown at me. It doesn't even matter because I still don't like a capella and you still do. The difference now is that I'm a persona non grata who can't get a date anymore. If the only thing that has changed is that my feelings are worse, then why were you so mean?

The uncomfortable truth about water

By Jarrett Azar
Humorist

Disclaimer: This may or may not be the opinion of The Weekly, and may or may not be the opinion of the author. I didn't bother to ask.

I have been advised by many not to publish an article such as this one, but I will no longer be silenced. After my best friend Will Wamser wrote that daring and unique article about "a capella"(?) last week, I am truly afraid for the reaction to this. Let me explain some background about myself first and my unique relationship with water. I've been a heavy water drinker since I was around 12 years old. Tragic, but some may even call me a wataholic. However, for years I tried to convince myself of a simple facade among the die hard water drinker community. That water from different places and different brands tastes different. I can't live this way anymore. I'm living a lie and I am ashamed of it. All water tastes the same.

It's boring. I don't know how else to say it. I know I'm in the minority here, and that the Deer Park water drinkers will be at me in full force tomorrow morning. They will be attacking my character, my writing, and my livelihood. And while that's wrong of them to react like that over something so inconsequential as one man's opinion, I know they will. I understand that the water drinking culture on this campus is a vicious one, but I have to speak up, or else no one will. Let's talk about what differentiates one water from another because as far as I can tell, it's not much.

Whether it's spring water or filtered water, it shares one big commonality, H2O. How can you tell me that one hydrogen dioxide tastes different from another? I want to be clear, I find water just as engaging as the next wataholic, I just can't continue to be shamed into saying water tastes different. I'm not insinuating that I could replace a good spring of water, they are very talented mechanisms and I couldn't do what they do.

But I do wish the water springs did something different. Why does all water have to taste the same? Most drinks, Propel™ for example, change with time. The flavors and variety get deeper and more interesting over time. That's why, occasionally, on a good Sunday, I'll allow myself a cold Propel or two. Now I know you're going to twist my words and say that I'm just upset that whenever a new Propel™ flavor comes to campus, no one cares. You're going to tell me I'm a crotchety old man, which I am, but that's mean. It's mean to call me a crotchety old man who secretly loves Propel™, which I am. Anyways, I just don't see that level of innovation happening with water. Same taste for 14 billion years? That doesn't sound like innovation to me. If you're going to drink the same old water day in and day out, I have one question for you; why?

Why would you torture yourself? Drinking the same water everyday knowing that if the taste of water hasn't changed in 14 billion years, it surely won't change in 14 billion more. Wouldn't (I'm positive I just spelled wouldn't wrong, but roll with it) it be better to drink less water? That way at least that same bland taste is fresh and somewhat exciting every time (Wouldn't looks weird now doesn't it, ha get pranked punk). The fact that water has no variance to it upsets me, and I know it upsets you on some level. How do I know it upsets you on some level? That you resonate with it in some way? Because you're going to be so upset about this article tomorrow. It will be all you can think about and you'll even have to talk about it in your classes, I'm sure of it. You may not even read the whole article. You'll probably just take what you want out of it and tell people I hate water and that no one should drink it or enjoy it. You know that's wrong of you, and cold-hearted as well, but you'll do it. If you really think my opinion is as uninformed and dumb as you want it to be, you wouldn't react to it.

P.S. Emily Drake is fine, and the Weekly has a very strong security system so you know I'm legit. :)

Yours Truly,
Wataholic Numero Uno

GRAPHIC OPINIONS

Why we love the Hargreeves

By Melissa Reph
Online Content Editor

Comic books are filled with troupes, well worn and often overdone. For example, there's only so many times you can kill Robin before you run out of Robins, which DC has. Or bring a character back from the dead before it becomes old hat, which it has. Or go back in time, or stop the apocalypse, or force an old hero team to reform.

The thing with troupes is that they're troupes because we enjoy them, they show up so often in media because people like them. The problem is when the same troupe is constantly being used and bigger problem is when it's poorly executed. Which is most of Marvel and DC's output currently.

However, Netflix's newest original series "The Umbrella Academy", based on the comic of the same name by Gerard Way and Gabriel Bá, is the perfect example of troupes done well.

The Hargreeves are a family of superheroes. As kids they were the world's premiere hero team, who as adults have become estranged but now must reconnect following their father's death and missing brother's sudden reappearance.

With Five showing up after having been missing since they were thirteen, he comes heralding the apocalypse, claiming to have gone to the future and seen the world after it ends and stressing that they must try and prevent this.

While he was gone, Five ran afoul of an agency that fixes possible discrepancies in the timeline, by way of time traveling assassins.

So let's recap; they're a hero team that was reformed to stop the apocalypse and wind up playing roulette with the timeline. If that sounds familiar then I would like to point you back the the first paragraph, last line.

Everything about the show is a troupe, from the characters' personalities to the action scenes of gratuitous violence over upbeat music. (Though I will stand by the donut shop scene with Five and They Might Be Giants' "Istanbul" as a cinematic masterpiece.) We have all seen variations of these themes before, multiple times over.

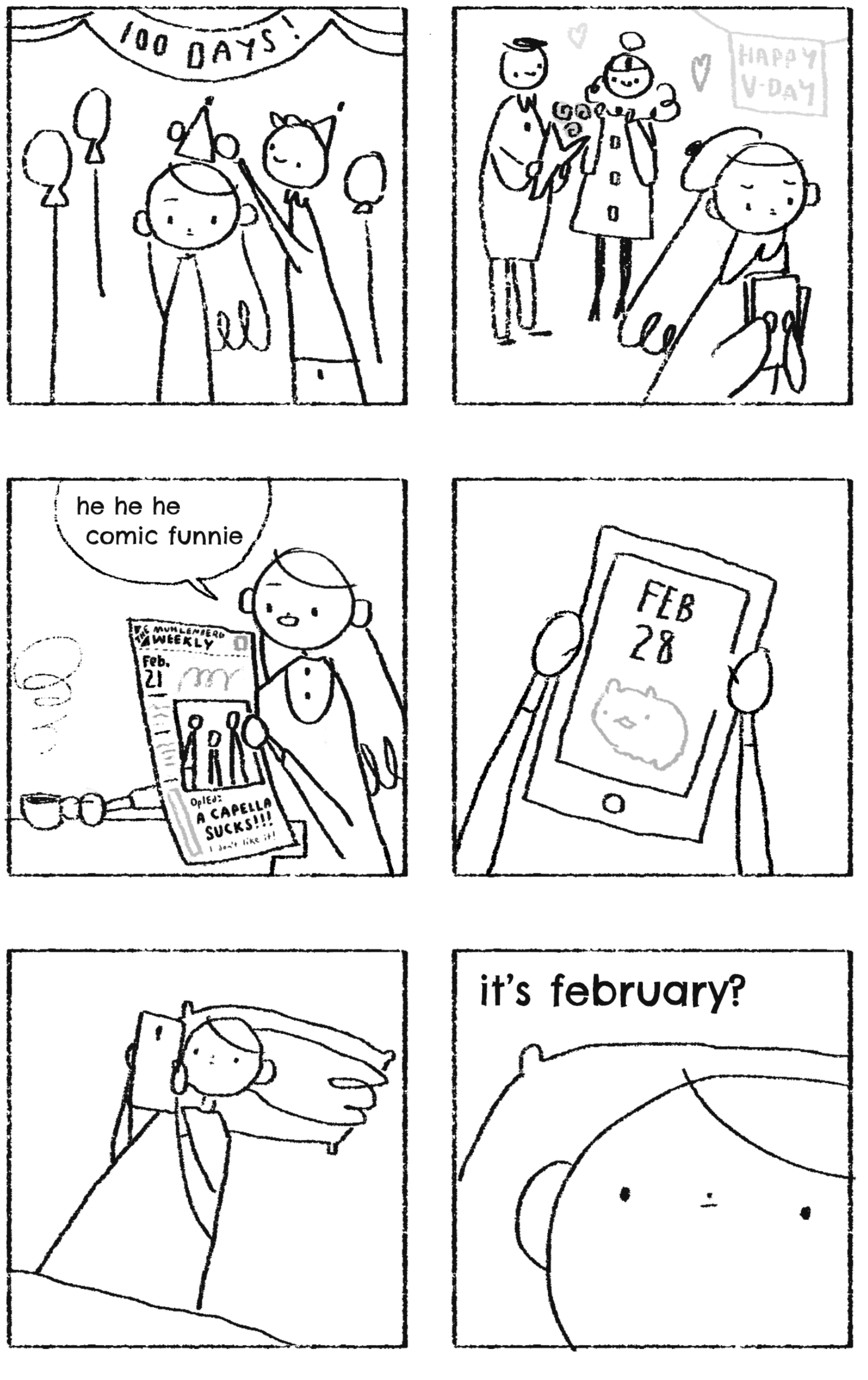
The difference between "The Umbrella Academy" and say, any given story arc of a Titans comic, is that the troupes are presented in an engaging and entertaining way. With the characters and their relationships being the center of the plot rather than the impending doom itself.

At the heart of the show is siblings who were severely emotionally abused by their father and as adults must now deal with the consequences. Most of them haven't spoken in years and they're all keeping secrets from each other; traumas that they feel forced to bear alone.

Yes, the characters' individual plots, as well as the overarching series plot, are pulled directly from the first two miniseries but the characters are much further developed than in the comics and that makes the series. They become so real and relatable, and frustrating and heartbreaking, in their own individual ways that you care more about them than the fate of the world.

This is why Netflix's "The Umbrella Academy" succeeds with its troupes when so many comics fail. The focus isn't on the troupes, but on the relationships of the characters. Something that DC and Marvel should definitely take note of.

oblivious
by jessica bensimhon



Medals for the Mules

By Brandon Kossin
Senior Staff Writer

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Photos Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Zach Lill '21 (left) and Cam Ford '21 (right) compete in the conference championships

Muhlenberg track and field participated in the Centennial Conference Championships this past Saturday and Sunday. It was a very impressive weekend for the Mules, having spectacular performances on the big stage from both the women's and the men's squads. Corrin Ferrizzi '22, took home gold in the triple jump while Zach Lill '21, claimed silver in pole vaulting. Both accomplishments definitely were major highlights of the team's overall performance. However, not to mention, Emily Mitchell '21, Andrew Braun '20 and Jarred Ford '22 all concluded weekend nicely, finishing in the top six in their respective competitions.

Ferrizzi's gold medal definitely was the major storyline of the weekend, being the first Mule to receive a gold medal in the event since 2006. She leaped her way to gold with a distance of 37-5 in the triple jump, out performing her second place opponent by 1-3¾. The gold medalist attributed her success to the per volume of jumping practices that she has been partaking in prior to the championships. After taking home this accolade, Ferrizzi believes that the momentum gained from the successful weekend will only carry into next season, and most likely lead to a more impressive season.

Lill also took home an amazing accolade, receiving the silver medal in the pole vault competition. He cleared 13-11¼, only six inches away from beating the conference champion from Dickinson.

Lill strongly felt that his lengthy preparation contributed to his astounding performance. "Starting in the offseason, I began to work much harder, going to extra pole vault sessions outside of Muhlenberg. Then coming to practice with a goal and focusing on that everyday gave me the confidence I needed to perform well when I needed to."

Lill, not only acknowledged his own dedication, but the work and mentorship of his coaches as well to propel him to the position he aspired to be in. "The past two year's coach and I have worked to make sure my approach is consistent, which is the biggest piece I needed help with. So the big thing was clearing big bars consistently and that′s just making small adjustment with a coach."

There is no better feeling than coming away with such a prestigious award on the big stage. Lill was ecstatic that all his hard work had paid off. "It has definitely been big relief to go out there and perform when the team needed me to and prove to myself that I can jump high because outdoor fall season was kind of a let down for me. I am happy for now, but now my work for the spring season starts."

This is an attitude that all coaches dream for their players to have. Not only did Lill succeed this past season, but he is hungry for more in the next.

For Ford, he ended the Conference Championships with a sixth place finish in the men's pole vault recording a score of 12-5½. However, the circumstances were a bit different for Ford this season, as he had never participated in indoor track and field. He reflected upon his preparation for this new challenge. "This is my first year doing indoor track and field so I had to adjust to the new environment. At the beginning of the season, I sprained my ankle which kept me out for six weeks, so I had to mentally and physically train myself harder to keep up to pace with my teammates. My persistence and loyalty to the sport each and every day helped me to peak during conferences and place."

Much like Lill, Ford also, attributed his success to the devoted Muhlenberg coaches. "My coach continued to encourage me everyday and helped me overcome obstacles that were hindering my performance. He made me smile and enjoy the sport that I compete in."

Ford and Lill have the same mentality that make them forces to be reckoned with in the season ahead. They know that if they want to unlock their full potential and achieve their goals, they need to work hard every single day. The Muhlenberg track and field squads have a lot to look forward to in the upcoming years, with players that are committed and that will do anything to get to the top.

Feasting his way to the top

By Alex Horowitz
Senior Staff Writer

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Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Frankie Feaster '20 cradles downfield after a successful faceoff.

The beginning of a lacrosse game is simple yet complex, calm but aggressive, cerimonial despite its brutality.

In the face off circle, the Muhlenberg Mules men's lacrosse team has their answer for the battles that not only start halves, but occur after each goal too. Frankie Feaster '20 has been an absolute force in the faceoff circle in his two plus years playing college ball in Allentown. This far in the 2019 campaign, Feaster has won six faceoffs out of a total of eight opportunities in the circle. Despite the few amount of faceoffs taken by Feaster in the early 2019 season due to a minor injury, which allows the midfielder to play but not face off as often, he has proven himself to be one of the best players the program has seen in its history.

Feaster holds two of the three top spots in the 'Berg lacrosse record book for faceoffs won in a single season with 233 and 165 in 2018 and 2017, respectively. He won 22 faceoffs in a single game - two different times - against Gordon and Stockton in the 2018 season.

Most impressively, Feaster has the most faceoffs won over the span of a career in program history, so at this point there are no more far out numbers to chase. With every faceoff won, Feaster will further etch his name into books, distancing himself from present and past players.

Although the faceoff circle is not necessarily where goals are scored and fancy assists are made, it can certainly be the spot where games are won or lost depending on teams successfully gaining possession of the ball.

There are a number of drills and exercises that can make players better at specific skills throughout the sport, but Feaster credits a lot of his success to the live faceoff reps he is able to gain at practice, against some pretty solid competition.

"To strengthen my faceoff ability I practice with guys like Matt Burke and Zach Cooper every day at practice," said the junior midfielder. "There are a lot of good battles and each of us make each other better."

While Feaster has already set multiple school records and seen much success in just two years at Muhlenberg, he knows he still has much to prove over his next two years on his lacrosse team. He constantly has preached team success over individual accomplishments, which is a mindset that is extremely beneficial to the team as a whole.

"It is a really a special feeling knowing that I hold the faceoff record but I am not working towards that goal," said Feaster. "I want to win faceoffs to control the ball and win lacrosse games."

While Feaster is currently easing into action with an injury, he and the team are excited for his return as it looks to compete for a Centennial Conference title this season after winning a program record high in 2018.

Pins, progress and potential

Cerminara '19 ties all time pins record, Fratantoni '20 commits to another year and program wins 11 more matches than previous season

By Noah Brill
Contributing Writer

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Medalists from the Centennial Conference championship meet pose to show off their new hardware.

On Feb. 23 and 24, the Muhlenberg wrestling team competed at the NCAA Mideast Regional in Brockport, N.Y. The team wound up finishing sixth of 18 programs and was in fourth at the conclusion of the first day.

Though many Mules wrestled well, Jimmy Fratantoni '19 stood out in particular as he not only went 2-0 on Saturday and narrowly lost his decision in overtime on Sunday, but he also defeated the same wrestler from Stevens as he did in the Centennial Conference Championships. This weekend's results were particularly invigorating to Fratantoni himself after all he has been through, both leading up to and over the course of his collegiate career.

"I was injured halfway through my senior year in high school and for my entire freshman year. I was also hurt during post season of both my sophomore and junior years. So I had to battle through a lot of adversity over the years. However, I made an effort to remain optimistic, as it made me hungry to get back on the mat this season," the redshirt senior said.

Fratantoni also stressed that all of his coaches at Muhlenberg have served as both tremendous sources of support and have been there to make sure the team stays focused.

"(Coach McLean) has been a huge influence on me over the past few years. He is the type of coach who can joke around with the team but when it's go time, he doesn't mess around. He's also not afraid to be straight up with you and tell you what needs to be improved even if it's not what you want to hear," said Fratantoni.

"Coach Andrew Drake has also been a huge proponent of my wrestling success. Both these guys have been mentors to me on and off the mat along with Coach Blanco, Coach Lally and all of my high school coaches."

Although this season may have drawn to a close, it is not the end of Fratantoni's collegiate career. Despite being classified as a senior, he will be back next season as he retained a year of eligibility due to injury.

The team is in a tremendous position to improve as a program. Just this season they flipped a 7-9 team record to an 18-7 clip. In the 2019-2020 season the roster is set to retain a whopping 27 of 29 athletes, including up and coming rookies such as Adam Lizak '22 and Luca Colestock '22.

Unfortunately, one of those two not returning is a team leader, Gennaro Cerminara '19. After day one at regionals the senior had reached his 49th career pin, one shy of the school record. In his last ever collegiate match at the end of day two Cerminara earned a share of the top spot in the record books. While battling for fifth place in the MidEast region, Cerminara pinned his opponent from SUNY Oneonta which ties him for the most pins in a Muhlenberg College career with Bill Holsinger '02.

With the returning core, expecting the Mules to be a top team in the region again is reasonable. Aside from Fratantoni, Austin Sherman '20, Dylan Schwartz '20, Scott Schaeffer '20, and Brian Jamison '20 will all be returners who have a regional medal on their mantel.

"For the most part, I am happy with my success this past season considering I was able to completely finish my first full collegiate season," Fratantoni said when reflecting on his career's journey. "However, I definitely still have a lot to work on for next year in order to accomplish my goals."

Beginning with a blowout

By Alex Blum
Sports Editor

Saturday marked the beginning of the 2019 women's lacrosse season with a matchup against the Arcadia University Knights at Scotty Wood Stadium. Following a lackluster 2018 season, the Lady Mules stepped onto the field with a chip on their shoulder, eager to make things right, and make a playoff push for the first time since 2017. The season is young, and the ladies got it started on the right foot coming away victorious. They are ready for that success carry over as they embark on a early season road trip to Hilton Head, S.C.

With three weeks of preseason practice under their belts, the Mules were thoroughly prepared to take on the Knights and anxious to show off and execute the game plan that they, Coach Stuckel, and the rest of the coaching staff had been perfecting in those weeks.

The team certainly proved that they were more than ready to begin the season, coming out and scoring the first five goals to grab the early lead. As Arcadia attempted to get back into the game, they simply were unable to slow down the ladies of Muhlenberg. Caroline Dolan '19 explained just how the squad was able to come together and get the win, "we went in with a lot of positive energy and intensity and worked as a cohesive unit on the field with everyone putting in the hard work."

Dolan, a seasoned veteran going into her final year is no stranger to the collegiate game. But for the eight freshmen that have just come on board, the collegiate game is brand new. For Hannah Wolfe '22, her first match at the Division-III level brought about mixed emotions. "I was pretty nervous when I first got out on the field, but I knew I was ready. I just had to go out there and play my game and focus on what I could do to help the team win."

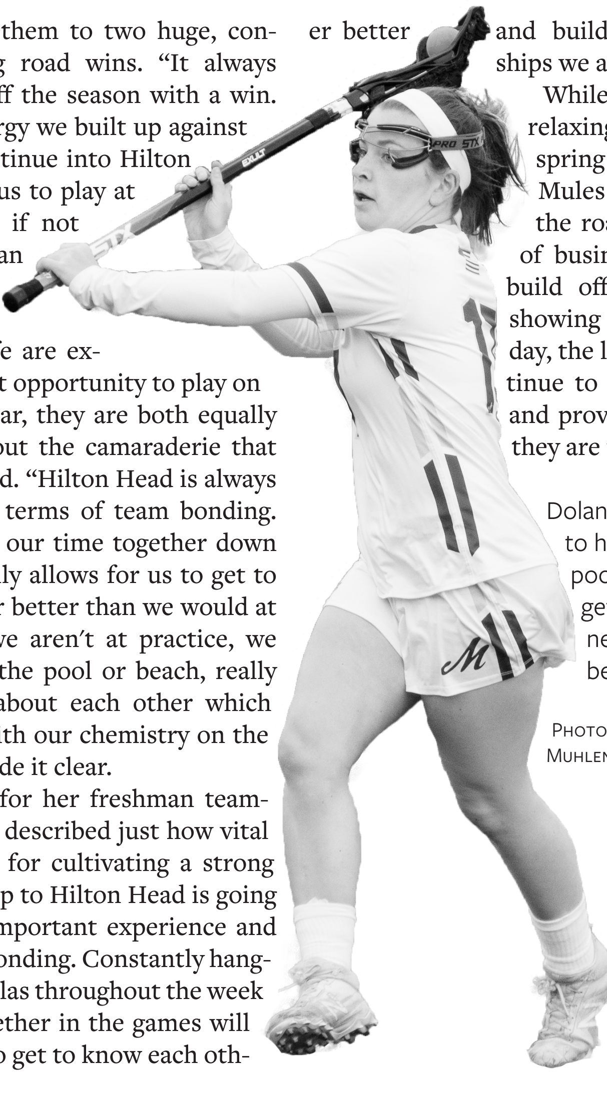
To dispel some of the butterflies that she may have had, the upperclassmen, like Dolan, and the coaching staff were there to provide guidance and mentorship. "During the game my coaches gave me and my teammates a lot of good tips on shooting placement and offensive strategies when we were struggling a bit. It was very helpful and the upperclassmen were very uplifting and encouraging on the field," said Wolfe.

Next on the schedule for the Mules is a road trip to South Carolina, where they will face opponents in Rensselaer Polytechnic and Hood College. The plan is to have the successes that contributed to their win on Saturday carry over and ultimately lead them to two huge, confidence-boosting road wins. "It always great starting off the season with a win. I think that energy we built up against Arcadia will continue into Hilton Head and push us to play at the same level, if not higher," Dolan said.

While both Dolan and Wolfe are excited for the first opportunity to play on the road this year, they are both equally enthusiastic about the camaraderie that the trip will build. "Hilton Head is always a great time in terms of team bonding. We spend all of our time together down there and it really allows for us to get to know each other better than we would at school. When we aren't at practice, we all hang out at the pool or beach, really learning more about each other which then helps us with our chemistry on the field," Dolan made it clear.

Wolfe spoke for her freshman teammates when she described just how vital such a trip was for cultivating a strong culture. "The trip to Hilton Head is going to be such an important experience and great for team bonding. Constantly hanging out in our villas throughout the week and playing together in the games will really allow us to get to know each other better and build on relationships we already have."

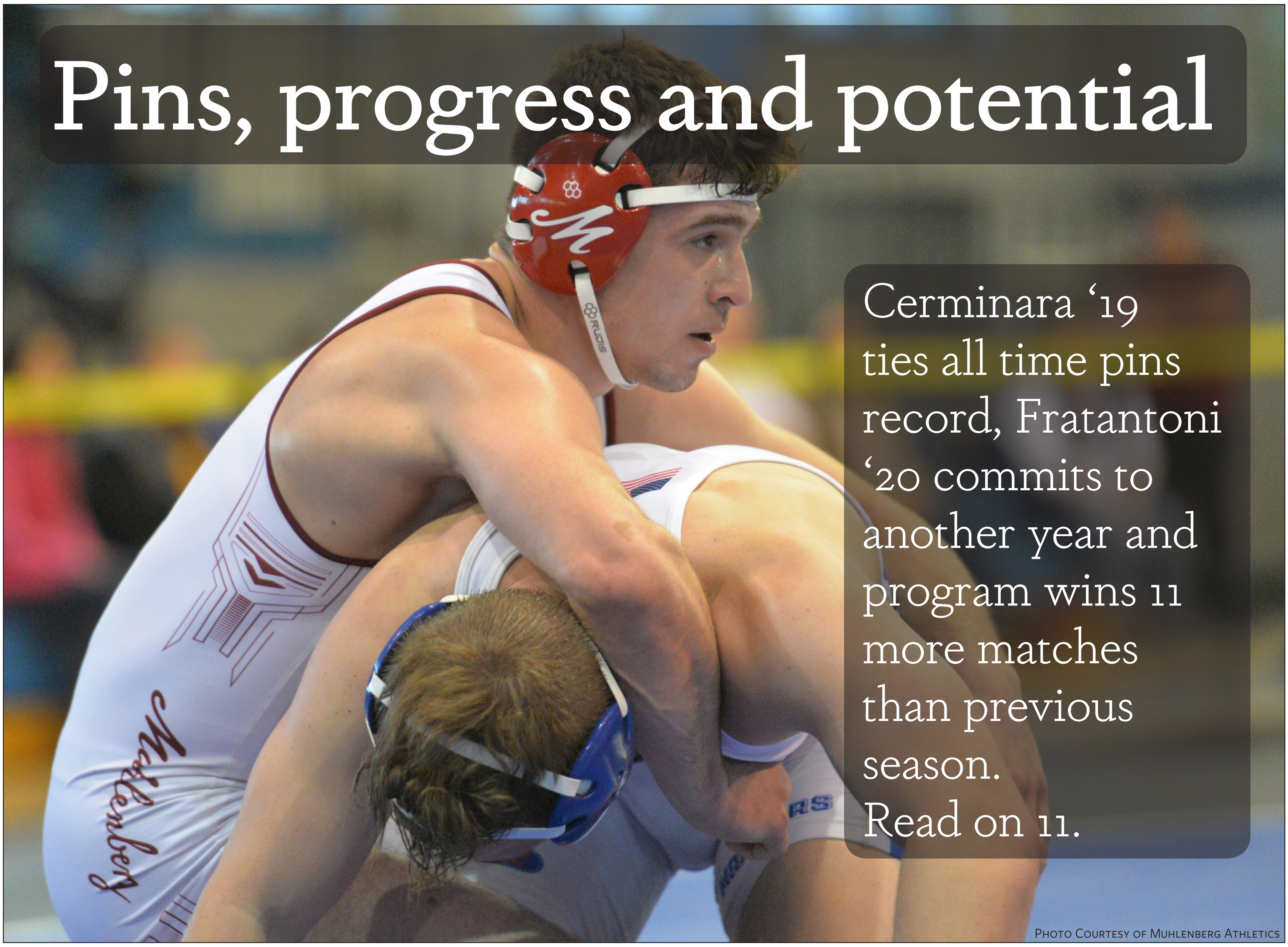
While everyone is relaxing at home on spring break, the Mules will be on the road taking care of business. Eager to build off their strong showing on opening day, the ladies will continue to give it all got and prove that in 2019 they are the real deal.



Dolan '19 is excited to hang by the pool or beach and get to know her new teammates better.

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS



Pins, progress and potential

Cerminara '19 ties all time pins record, Fratantoni '20 commits to another year and program wins 11 more matches than previous season.

Read on 11.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MUHLENBERG ATHLETICS

Mules migrate south

Check out the full Muhlenberg athletics schedule during spring recess.

Baseball

RussMatt Invitational

Mar. 3 @ 1:00 & 3:30 pm (DH)
vs Emerson @ Auburndale, Fla.

Mar. 4 @ 3:15 & 5:45 pm
(DH) vs Illinois College
@ Kissimmee, Fla.

Mar. 5 @ 9:15 am vs Penn State
Hazelton(JV) @ Auburndale, Fla.

Mar. 6 @ 9:45 am vs Bridgewater
@ Kissimmee, Fla.

Mar. 6, 3:00 pm vs Grove City
@ Kissimmee, Fla.

Mar. 8 @ 9:00 am vs Widener
@ Auburndale, Fla.

Mar. 9 @ 9:30 am & 12:00 pm
(DH) vs Marymount
@ Winter Haven, Fla.

*** DH - double header*
***JV - Junior Varsity game*

Men's Tennis

Mar. 3 @ 8:00 pm
vs Georgia Gwinnett
@ Lake Nona, Fla. - USTA

Mar. 4 @ 11:30 am
vs Monmouth (Illinois)
@ Haines City, Fla.

Mar. 5 @ 11:30 am
vs Christian Brothers
@ Lakeland, Fla.

Mar. 6 @ 12:00 pm
vs Saint Anselm
@ Lake Nona, Fla. - USTA

Men's Lacrosse

Mar. 7 @ 1:00 pm
vs Rhodes College
@ Memphis, Tenn.

Mar. 9 @ 1:00 pm
vs Southern Virginia
@ Buena Vista, Va.

Women's Lacrosse

Mar. 4 @ 11:00 am
vs Rensselaer
@ Hilton Head, S.C.

Mar. 6 @ 10:00 am
vs Hood
@ Hilton Head, S.C.

Women's Tennis

Mar. 2 @ 11:30 am
vs Alvernia
@ Lake Nona, Fla. - USTA

Mar. 2 @ 4:00 pm
vs Seton Hill
@ Lake Nona, Fla. - USTA

Mar. 3 @ 2:00 pm
vs St. Francis (Illinois)
@ Orlando, Fla.

Mar. 5 @ 11:30 am
vs Minnesota State
@ Lakeland, Fla.

Mar. 6 @ 12:00 pm
vs Saint Anselm
@ Lake Nona, Fla. - USTA

Softball

The Spring Games

Mar. 2 @ 9:00 am & 1:30 pm
vs Mil. (Wis) SOE & E. Nazarene
@ Kissimmee, Fla.

Mar. 3 @ 9:00 am & 3:45 pm
vs PSU Brandywine &
Lebanon Valley
@ Clermont, Fla.

Mar. 5 @ 10:00 am & 12:15 pm
vs Theil & Otterbein
@ Kissimmee, Fla.

Mar. 6 @ 4:00 & 6:15 pm
vs PSU Berks & Rhodes
@ Kissimmee, Fla.

Mar. 8 @ 9:30 & 11:45 am
vs DeSales & Bridgewater
@ Kissimmee, Fla.

Mar. 9 @ 11:45 am & 4:15 pm
vs St. Joseph's &
UMASS Dartmouth
@ Kissimmee, Fla.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

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Muhlenberg's Gospel Choir, Rejoice, empowers the college community

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NEWS

Students worry about high radon levels found in the EMS house, raising questions about what the gas is and what Muhlenberg is doing about it.

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ARTS & CULTURE

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OP/ED

PHAM representative Chrystina Obleschuk speaks on the benefits of Muhlenberg becoming a smoke-free campus, providing resources and advice for those who may struggle to transition.

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SPORTS

After a dazzling rookie year, Dan Gaines '22 was awarded for his play, but failing to reach the playoffs still continues to weigh heavily on his mind.

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BergBeat magazine

The tests that torment teens: what's the point?

By Juliana Reiner
Contributing Writer

You glance at the clock, which you now regret because it cost you two whole seconds, and there is no time to waste. The section started 33 minutes and 17 seconds ago, giving you exactly one minute and 47 seconds to finish. You still have an entire passage to go. The oxygen in the room has been replaced by pure tension, making it harder and harder to breathe. By the time you see that 15 seconds are left in the Reading section, you bubble in C for the remaining eight questions. At least one answer must be C, right?

This is what happened to Olivia (all singular first names are pseudonyms), a Muhlenberg student who decided not to submit her standardized test scores. Sitting in the back of a Toyota Camry on Route 22, I learned that Olivia has a strong opinion on whether or not standardized test scores are an accurate reflection of high school performance.

"No, 100 percent no. It's a stupid thing that you have to do it because I worked really hard in all my classes and had a really good GPA and this test is all just based on one day. It might not be a good day for you. It doesn't show anything about what you're going to end up doing in college or your preparedness," said Olivia.

Olivia believes timed tests inhibit students from doing their best.

"That doesn't show your abilities. It's just showing how fast you can get through something," said Olivia.

It's no wonder, then, that parents spend so much money on tutors to teach their children the tricks of the test.

"They don't really teach you as much information, they teach you how to take the test," says Charlotte Smith, a high school junior quoted in her school newspaper, Redwood Bark, in 2014. "They teach you strategies, like which one to skip, how confident you should be if you want to guess."

If students must learn the ins and outs of the exam rather than the content itself, what exactly are standardized tests measuring? Is a student who receives a 32 on the ACT inherently smarter than a student who receives a 27? William Hiss, the former dean of admissions for Bates College, led a study that tracked the grades and graduation rates of both students who submitted and did not submit test scores over several years. He found that there were no statistically significant differences in college performance between the two groups. So many factors go into a student's standardized test score that it is nearly impossible to determine if a score is due to extensive (and expensive) tutoring, individual testing difficulties, or other personal or external factors.

Additionally, nearly 38 percent of students who are tutored in either standardized test taking or academic courses pay between $51 and $100 an hour, 16 percent pay between $101 and $150 an hour and nearly 12 percent pay over $150 an hour. Perhaps the exams really just test how much money people are willing to spend to be the best.

The ACT defines college readiness as, "the acquisition of the knowledge and skills a student needs to enroll in and succeed in credit bearing first-year courses at a postsecondary institution... without the need for remediation." However, it is unusual for entry-level college courses to require students to find the hypotenuse of a right triangle or determine the word that another word "most nearly means" given the context. And they are unlikely to require such thinking at the rapid pace of a standardized test. In fact, students who are only able to think in such abstract ways and, perhaps, are unable to supply real-world knowledge, may be the least prepared for college, as content becomes much less theoretical and more tangible at the college level.

I am surrounded by the loud whirring of an espresso machine and the clicking of keys on keyboards as I sit in Java Joe with Eliana, a current political science major at Muhlenberg. Eliana has a very specific learning disability that inhibits her from doing well on the math and science sections of the ACT exam.

"I have a nonverbal learning disability," says Eliana. "So I have no comprehension of visual information whatsoever. I can't read any graphs, maps, charts... anything presented to me visually, I don't understand."

Nonverbal learning disabilities could be thought of as "the opposite of dyslexia," according to Scott Bezsylko, executive director of Winston Preparatory School, in the article "What is Non-Verbal Learning Disorder?" Therefore, interpreting graphs, like those presented on the ACT in 2016, is an extraordinarily challenging task for students like Eliana.

"And do you think scores on that have affected anything you're doing here in college?" I ask Eliana in regard to sections on the ACT that involve interpreting visual information.

"No, I... no. They have no effect," Eliana stutters. Her gears turn as she searches for the right

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THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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CORRECTION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly strives for accuracy in reporting and writing, but we acknowledge that mistakes happen. Readers are invited to submit corrections about errors in articles, and they should be submitted to weeklyeditor@gmail.com. Corrections are also brought to our staff's attention by our own editors and writers. Our staff will review the suggested correction, consult with the author of the article, and issue the appropriate correction. Online corrections are located at the bottom of the article. Print corrections are located within the paper, on the page indicated in the online edition. However, The Weekly does not grant take-down requests for articles.

ADVERTISING POLICY

We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

Monday, January 29
Theft - 1:00 p.m.
Report of theft of money in East Hall. Investigation to continue.

Tuesday, March 12
Found property - 3:10 p.m.
Report of found money in South Hall. Owner unknown, money was placed in lost and found locker.

Theft - 5:00 p.m.
Report of theft of Air Pods in Seegers Union. No suspects at this time.

Wednesday, March 13
Hammock incident - 6:10 p.m.
Report of hammock attached to lamp post in parking lot on Gordon Street. Student later removed hammock, no further incident.

Thursday, March 14
Fire alarm - 1:56 p.m.
Report of fire alarm on Chew Street from cooking. System silenced and reset.

Friday, March 15
Alcohol violation - 1:50 a.m.
Report of alcohol violation in Walz Hall. Individuals identified and spoken to, alcohol disposed of, no further incident.

Saturday, March 16
Drug violation - 10:55 a.m.
Report of marijuana and drug paraphernalia possession and in Prosser Hall. Items brought to Campus Safety and placed in evidence locker.

Property damage - 3:25 p.m.
Report of damage to door at North 23rd Street. Plant Operations was notified to repair.

Sunday, March 17
Alcohol violation - 2:42 a.m.
Report of alcohol violation in Seegers Union. Allentown Police Department responded and arrested student for underage drinking and public drunkenness.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

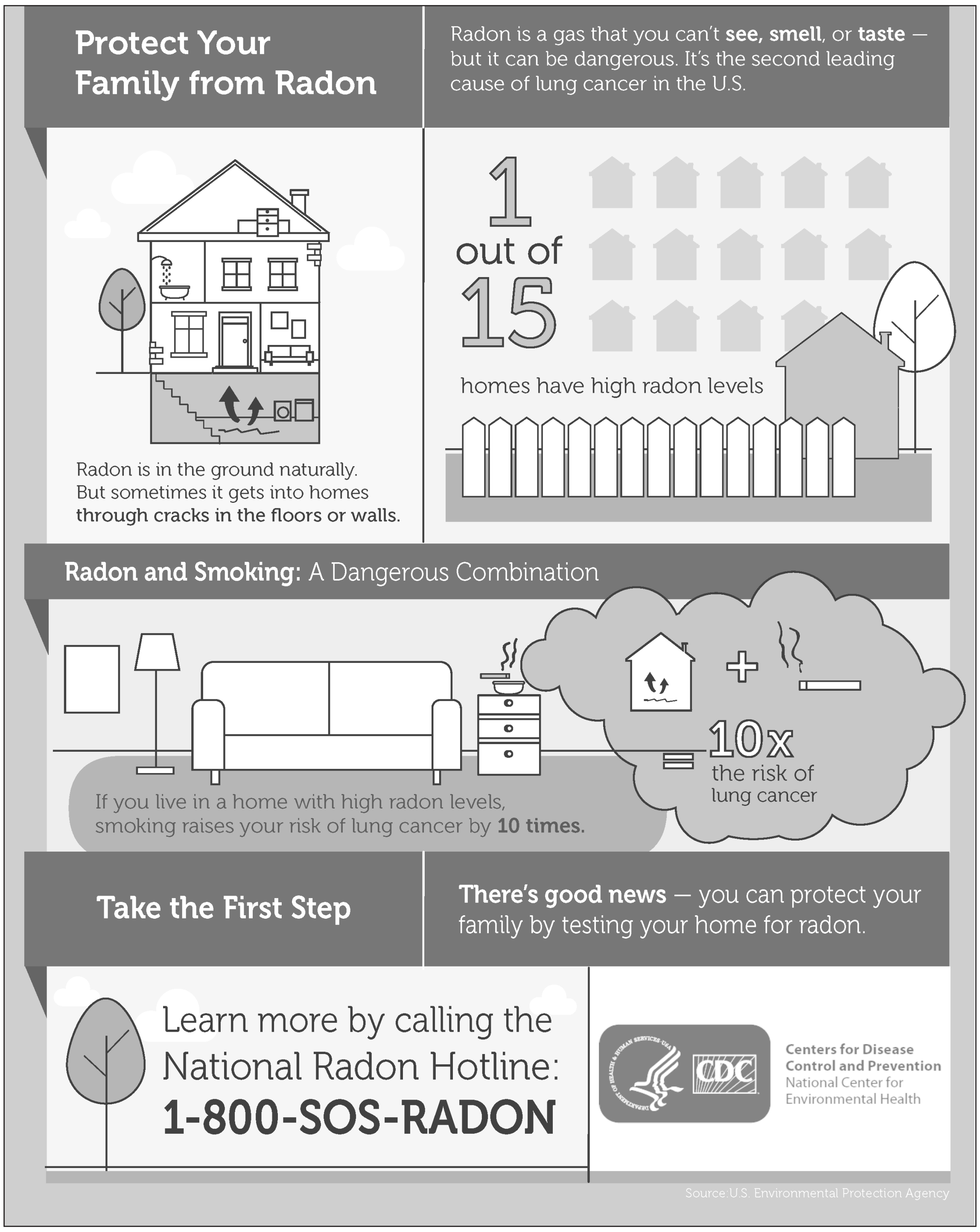
GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

Check out our New Limited Time Items at the GQ!
Garlic Braised Chicken with Quinoa, Bell Peppers, & Onions
Roast Beef Panini & Cherry Pepper Relish
Mini Frittata with Leeks & Asparagus
Muhlenberg
GENERAL'S QUARTERS

Radon: what's the big deal?

BY CHRISTINE STRANGE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



Protect Your Family from Radon

Radon is a gas that you can't **see, smell**, or **taste** — but it can be dangerous. It's the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S.

Radon is in the ground naturally. But sometimes it gets into homes **through cracks in the floors or walls.**

1 out of 15 homes have high radon levels

Radon and Smoking: A Dangerous Combination

If you live in a home with high radon levels, smoking raises your risk of lung cancer by **10 times.**

= 10x the risk of lung cancer

Take the First Step

There's good news — you can protect your family by testing your home for radon.

Learn more by calling the National Radon Hotline:
1-800-SOS-RADON

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Environmental Health

Source:U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Though lung cancer is primarily caused from intentional activities, such as smoking, approximately 15,000 – 22,000 annual lung cancer deaths are radon-related as reported by the National Cancer Institute. Radon is a noble gas on the far right of the periodic table, invisible, odorless, and radioactive. Lehigh Valley is particularly vulnerable to radon simply because it sits on top of shale made of primarily uranium. Radon is a result of the breakdown of uranium – thus, the radioactive gas leeches up to the surface, seeping into basements through cracks in the foundation. When humans breathe in radon, it enters the bodies and destroys the cells lining the lungs. It can then absorb into and spread to the rest of the body.

Radon is a thing that can be managed – while it is not necessarily healthy, it is certainly tolerable, and will not be harmful in small doses. The US Environmental Protection Agency recommends that each citizen be only surrounded by approximately 4 pCi/L. Yet, an article in the Morning Call recently stated that radon was detected in a home here in the Lehigh Valley at "...a level of 6,176 picocuries per liter, more than 1,500 times higher than the recommended limit."

Recently, students from Muhlenberg College have taken an interest in this particular carcinogen and conducted their own test. Jordan Zucker '20, a member of the Finance Committee and Student Government Association, heard complaints of high levels of radon in the EMS house from fellow students currently residing in the house. The residents had purchased a $8-$12 radon-testing kit, and detected a level of radon similar to the other home in Lehigh Valley (Pennsylvania government does not require homeowners to test for radon.). Following this, Zucker decided to take initiative, and on January 30, Zucker reached out to Plant Operations to see what could be done.

Jim Bolton of Plant Operations responded with a statement of how they are actively listening to student concerns, clarifying that "...Testing was conducted in [the EMS house] basement and remediation was completed." However, it is unlikely that radon exposure will impact student health in the long run given that they will likely only live on campus for four years. Also, the highest concentrations of radon are found in the basements of different buildings, places where most students don't have access to.

Kash Calderon '19 has been studying public awareness of radon with Chrysan Cronin, Director and Assistant Professor of Public Health for the past two years. Within the first phase of the four phase project, Calderon distributed surveys in order to find out which demographics were aware of radon and its potential hazard: of the full 551 participants, only 64 percent had heard of radon, and of the 238 Latinos who participated, only 39 percent had heard of it. The next phase was conducted with focus groups of Allentown residents and Muhlenberg staff, where the participants were requested to watch the current government PSAs regarding radon and assess their effectiveness. Most of these PSAs were in English, which posed a problem for some of the focus groups since Allentown has a very large Spanish-speaking population.

Calderon and Cronin are currently in phase three of the research project, which is to create a PSA that is community friendly that will be able to educate the community about radon and how to mitigate it. However, because it is not regulated by the government, it is not a widely-known health concern. Muhlenberg students are beginning to recognize the dangers and are taking action as a result.

FROM **BERG BEAT** PAGE 1

words to explain. "They have no effect. I applied test optional here and I have not noticed any difference in my life versus my friends who did well on these tests."

"I don't need math," Eliana continues. "I'm not doing math or science here. Not being good at that on the ACT had no impact on anything. I don't think it's testing 'college readiness'; I think it's testing 'can you take the ACT?' I literally think that's what it's testing."

"Do you think the way it's timed is fair?" I pose.

"No, but I had six hours or something to take [the test] because of my issues. But I don't think the way it's timed is fair for my friends who did not have it because they were more rushed. They were more focused on getting the questions done than actually thinking about it. So, it's like, not only are you testing us on information that's hard, but now you have to think in a minute to answer these questions."

As a final thought, Eliana adds, "Also, I have pretty bad test anxiety. So, it's like... I just don't think it's fair to people. I don't know... there are a lot of issues."

Not all schools, however, emphasize standardized test scores when admitting students. Eric Thompson, an admissions officer at Muhlenberg, explains that there is a difference in how large universities weigh test scores versus smaller schools.

"Smaller schools often have the chance to invest time in getting to know their applicants, while larger schools may make choices based more specifically on a student′s academic history," Thompson explains. "In the Office of Admissions, we take a holistic approach in reviewing applications to attend Muhlenberg. Test scores (or choosing not to submit scores) is just one of five or six areas we consider when making an admissions decision. If students submit test scores that are at, or above our mid-range scores, that is seen as a positive component of their application. If they apply test-optional, we will read a graded paper to see if they are prepared to write on a college level. I think we classify the test score piece as an important part of the process, but an admissions decision is not solely based on standardized test scores (or a graded paper)."

But for those who are thinking of skipping the test, they may find their merit aid impacted since many schools use standardized tests as a means to distribute money.

"There is a reflective relationship between test scores and merit aid," says Thompson. "Merit is determined on a case-by case basis, but typically students who have strong GPAs and standardized test scores will see higher merit awards. In addition to merit scholarships, if a student qualifies for one of our four honors programs, that also comes with a $5,000 merit award per year. Students who do not submit test scores are not eligible for merit scholarships. Test-optional students can, however, apply for financial aid or try for a talent scholarship in Theatre, Dance, Music, Visual Art or Film."

But what about a test-optional student who does not qualify for financial aid? What if this student is not skilled in the arts? Perhaps a student has the same skill level as another student who scored significantly higher on the SAT, but one student could afford private tutoring while the other could not. Just because a family makes a salary high enough to be exempt from financial aid does not mean they could afford to pay $60,000 annually on education. Additionally, three of Muhlenberg's four honors programs (Dana Scholars, Muhlenberg Scholars, and RJ Fellows) require test scores of at least 1350, so they are completely out of the question for any student who goes test optional or a student who is completely qualified for college honors programs except for their test scores.

If the content on these exams does not

SEE **BERG BEAT** PAGE 4

Physics CUE tests particle detector for final project

By Laura Schwarz
Asst. News Editor

On Mar. 14, members of the Physics CUE course set up on academic row to test the subject of their final project: a muon angular distribution detector.

James Silva '19 has been working with his classmates on perfecting the design of the detector drafted by their instructor, Dr. Brett Fadem. The device, a long cardboard tube on a tripod connected to a circuit board and a laptop, is designed to detect muons, a type of elementary particle. This project is part of Fadem's long-term work with this type of detector and its possible applications.

"We are measuring the angular distributions of these little particles called muons (which can be best understood as much heavier electrons) coming from our atmosphere," says Silva, explaining the experiment for broader audience. "We all have about 200 of these muons passing through us every second!"

Muons and muon detectors help physicists with a variety of research; from measuring the electric potential of thunderstorms to discovering hidden chambers in the Great Pyramid of Egypt and detecting nuclear waste.

Aside from testing and improving the device, the students also seek to use their less-expensive detector to help other college and high school students perform physics research affordably.

"Our detector and circuitry set up is Dr. Brett Fadem's brainchild and was made with two motivations: Create a culminating senior physics experiment that requires knowledge of circuitry, programming, 3D-printing and particle physics and to create a cheap muon angular distribution detector that colleges with low budgets can afford," explains Silva. "After it is perfected it could potentially be configured to be used by advanced high school students to learn about particle physics as well as the basics tools of circuitry such as about resistors, capacitors and oscilloscopes."

On Pi day, Silva, his research partner Ricky Morash, '19, and other members of the Physics CUE could be seen explaining their research with passerby, discussing particle physics, and "taking measurements of the rate of muons at various angles."

Tova Stein / The Muhlenberg Weekly

James Silva '19 (left) and Ricky Morash '19 (right) stand in Parents Plaza with the particle detector they assembled as part of their senior CUE.

Silva expresses his excitement for the future of the CUE's detector design and the many helpful uses it could have at Muhlenberg and elsewhere.

"Our project has a future too," says Silva. "We improved the design, but there are still many ideas and approaches to explore and more improvements to be made. Future groups in the Physics CUE and even departments at other institutions will continue building the next iterations of the experiment until it is perfected."

Parading down Liberty

St. Patty's Day traditions in Allentown and 'Berg

By Chloe Gravereaux
Editor-in-Chief

I sat in a horse-drawn carriage, age thirteen, with green hair extensions clipped in my hair as I leaned over the side of the carriage to wave at the passing crowd. My grandparents sat across from me in matching green kilts, crowned as the King and Queen of the Allentown St. Patrick's Day parade. In a few years, I'd dawn a kilt of the same color and attend yet another coronation- despite, myself, having no irish heritage.

My aunt lived in the West end of Allentown, one block up from the bend in the parade route. Since my early teens, every St. Patrick's Day was filled with cheap plastic beads, flashing green hats and feather boas, and green solo cups. I've attended the coronation every year since, and watched irish dancers of all ages tap the floor, bodies straight and stiff and piles of coiled hair bouncing. This tradition continued once I joined Muhlenberg.

Muhlenberg has a similar tradition- with the fairgrounds so close, how could it not.The cardinal and grey campus is dyed green for a full day, students in green wigs and tulle skirts and wrapped in Irish flags as the parade of bagpipes, Irish dancers and trolleys march down Liberty Street, on the back end of campus. Benfer holds its Benfer Bash, students run in 5K in front of the parade. This year, in addition to the parade, there was also a Shamrock Shake dance, hosted by Housing and Residence LIfe, as well as St. MACtrick's Day which featured other green activities. This year, extra security was hired to prepare for expected crowds, Dean Gulati stated in an e-mail to the student body.

Photo Courtesy of Kathleen Mangold

Students line up to grab green refreshments at the Shamrock Shake, hosted by Housing and Residence Life the Friday before St. Patrick's Day.

The holiday has come far from its beginnings, but it has all been kept in the family. The Allentown St. Patrick's Day parade began in 1957 by James and Ann Brown. Currently, their grandchildren still run the parade and ride every year in a green trolly to keep their grandparents' memory alive, they told 69 News.

″It′s important. It′s important. It′s family,″ Tom Molseed, the grandchild of Browns, told 69 News.

The same can be said for this year's King and Queen, Phillip and Kim Ferguson.

″I′ve been involved with the St.Patrick′s Day committee my whole life. 15 years old I started on the committee, it′s a great honor,″ says Phillip.

The parade begins at the Allentown Fairgrounds, a block from the furthest student residences, and goes down Albright street, turns onto Tilghman, then 26th and marches down Liberty street, the edge of campus.

from **Berg Beat** page 3

reflect college material, speed is tested rather than critical thinking and intelligence, and higher scores can be achieved by spending more money, what's the point? Why does Muhlenberg, along with many other institutions across the United States, grant more money to higher scores when they clearly do not reflect what they are intended to? Why do some schools place so much emphasis on not just merit aid, but accepting a student at all, based on test scores?

Perhaps college admissions are aware of the correlation between money spent on standardized tests and scores and use this to their advantage. If parents paid so much for their children to make it to top schools, surely they are willing to give those schools the same benefit.

Or perhaps schools are simply afraid to move away from their traditional admissions strategies.

Should standardized tests be completely omitted? Are students like Olivia and Eliana truly less deserving of merit aid than a student who decided to click the "send" button on their scores? Why have these exams become a race? Is it all about the money? The statement believed to be said by Albert Einstein sums up standardized testing perfectly, "Everyone is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid."

The Muhlenberg Weekly

/ARTS & CULTURE

> "When we separate music from life we get art."
>
> —John Cage

Tick tock, round the clock

Muhlenberg presents *Clocks in Motion*

Cole Gessler / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Clocks in Motion perform in Center for the Arts Recital Hall. Presenting: Matthew Coley, Sean Kleve, Christopher G. Jones, and Megan Arns.

By Lauren D. Mazur
Arts & Culture Editor

Imagine if you could be forever in time, in rhythm, in beat, in pattern with the world around you; in time to such a point that you find yourself no longer counting but instead being, and for some, *creating*. This is only partially the emotions I felt while watching the touring group Clocks in Motion perform on Muhlenberg's campus last week. Described as a percussionist ensemble, the group was formed in 2011 in Madison, Wisconsin. Originally they were larger, having up to twelve ensemble members in order to perform the enormous repertoire of some older percussion pieces. As time went on however, the group shrunk, and shifted towards a different approach to their art.

'Different,' however, is not the best word to use to describe this music. It's more complex than that. Their opening piece, Mark Mellits' "Gravity," is a good place to start.

Featuring marimbas, vibraphones, and other various percussion instruments, the piece began with a *fast* start. Using various mallets to create certain soundscapes, the composition grew in tension through the rhythms as well as the harmonies. The texture was so thick it was hard to breathe. Shifting from singular mallets in each hand to two at a time, the goal of the piece was undeniably atmosphere — and all that applies with such a word. The rise and fall of pressure, the weightlessness, the heaviness, space, and the constriction. For me, it was experiencing an entirely new sound pallet — but how does one describe this in mere writing?

Well, then there is the virtuosity in question. Performers Matthew Coley, Chris Jones, Sean Kleve, and Megan Arns demonstrated mastery over their craft. As they jumped and twisted from placement musically to placement *physically*, perfectly in sync with one another's mind, the piece only seemed to grow in complexity and wonder. I couldn't turn away — visually or otherwise.

The next piece I want to mention is John Cage's "Third Construction." Explained as the oldest piece in their repertoire that night, the composition consisted of a series of not only drums but soup cans, symbols, shakers, wood blocks, and even a conch shell. This was mainly due to the piece's construction at the time. Percussion instruments were (and still are) expensive, so Cage found and used what he could to create the piece he had in his head. Due to this, he couldn't find any percussionists to play his piece as a majority of them wished to stick to classical repertoire. Because of this, the piece was performed by mainly dancers and pianists.

It was my personal favorite as well, honestly. The composition is just extravagant in both its instrumentation and score. While to some it may have seemed improvised and almost random, Kleve asserts that not a single aspect of "Third Construction" is improvised. Every part, rhythm, and sound is played intentionally at a specific time and place. Specifically to demonstrate its namesake, 'construction.'

"I don't know that I have ever heard John Cage's "Third Construction" live before..." Dr. Andrew Ardizzoia lamented, "that piece struck me because it is so wild...We think of John Cage as a sort of...calm a tranquil guy, but the early stuff is so rhythmically vital. It has such vivacity to it."

As the coordinator of the Contemporary Music Festival, Ardizzoia had an idea of what he wanted demonstrated and expressed throughout his program.

"We have a very strong choral program. We have a strong instrumental program. Most of the programing in those two areas is devoted to music that is a little bit older..." Ardizzoia explained, "what we do with the contemporary music festival intends to be a little bit more on the beaten path in terms of its accessibility."

Ardizzoia said that part of the festival's primary goal is to play and share music of living composers and encompass a variety of genres, including such repertoire as *Clocks in Motion*.

"The important thing about the contemporary music festival is creating that space where we can experience all of these different types of music that are of our time but maybe are wildly different from one another," Ardizzoia continues, "that's one of my goals with the contemporary music festival; to make sure we're representing a diverse range of both composers with diverse aesthetic outlooks and also performers who are interested in a lot of different things."

Ardizzoia also stressed the value of diverse repertoire in the festival — diversity in a sense that is both in tangent and seperate from the classics that we have all come to know and love.

"To me the diversity is a really important part of what we do. If we had a mission, I think diverging aesthetic view points would be really important part of what we're talking about."

Clocks in Motion also featured the work of Jennifer Bellor, a composer who is currently writing for their ensemble group. Her piece, *Of Maker & Movement,* was a composition of three movements.

"I thought Jennifer Bellor's piece was the strongest on the program—just in terms of the surface level sounds that she's working with. She has such an ear for timbre," said Ardizzoia.

The production was a success. Truly outstanding and one of a kind in nature. The festival of course continues with its next ensemble Atlemos. Be sure not to miss it Mar. 29 in the Recital Hall of the Center for Arts.

"The program alone is enough to make people sort of sit up and take notice—but it is also going to be performed at such a high level," Ardizzoia continued, "I think you would be silly not to be there if you have any interest in singing, wind instruments, chamber music, any of that sort of thing. It's going to be a great day."

This is Gospel: Ensemble group Rejoice takes the stage

By Lauren D. Mazur
Arts & Culture Editor

Sasson Lonner / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Rejoice, Muhlenberg's Gospel Choir, sing songs of love and praise for all of life.

I won't pretend to grasp the love and religion that is and revolves around Gospel. My relationship with God, if there be one, is lackluster at best. And very recently I have begun to question my own personal faith itself. I won't elaborate on my reasons, but I will say that attending the Gospel Workshop performance couldn't have come at a more opportune time.

The Gospel workshop concert I attended was a combination of Muhlenberg students and faculty as well as the Allentown community.

In simple terms, it was beautiful.

The Gospel Choir, named Rejoice, sang in beautiful harmonies and cascading melody lines that flooded the chapel with pure-vocal sound. They used their voices to encourage the rest of the Chapel community to join them in their praises of God and life as a whole.

Eric Thompson, Senior Assistant Director of Admission as well as the Advisor/Director of Rejoice, was more than happy to share his thoughts and efforts in the process of planning the Gospel weekend.

"This tradition was started by the college′s former Dean of Students, Dean Karen Green, in the spring of 2007," explained Thompson. "She wanted to develop a Gospel choir on campus and did a Gospel Workshop Weekend to encourage interest from the community. We've had an annual concert ever since."

A Muhlenberg alumna, as well as a past Rejoice member, Thompson continued to elaborate on role of Gospel itself as well as its function on community life.

"I believe 'Gospel' has a religious, cultural, spiritual, and musical context," said Thompson. "The sound of gospel music comes across to me as an 'anointed' sound- quite heavenly. Traditionally, African American slaves would sing the 'news of the gospel,' meaning teachings from the Bible about the goodness of Christ, the Lord and Savior. Their musical influences came from their African heritages and were usually devised of unique harmonies filled with soul and strength. Culturally, the music was/is used as a means of religious praise, church fellowship, and a longing for emancipation. This is one of the reasons why Gospel songs were utilized so often during the Civil Rights Movement."

"As for Rejoice, Muhlenberg Gospel Choir, it is an ensemble where students can just come to enjoy sharing music with each other and their audience," Thompson continues. "The E-board and myself work to create an inclusive space that offers an uplifting genre of music. Some students say that Gospel rehearsal is the highlight of their week. If the choir simply provided that one benefit to students, I feel like it is something worth doing then."

As the Advisor/Director of the Gospel Choir, Thompson had to plan and coordinate the workshop weekend with other faculty members.

Thompson describes that "for the Workshop, along with fantastic help from the Chaplain′s Office, I planned and coordinated the logistics of the weekend. I was mostly involved with the rehearsal structure and musical components."

Thompson also continued to describe the opportunity that Rejoice provides for the Muhlenberg community.

"Primarily I think it works towards the college's commitment to diversity," said Thompson. "There are many vocal ensembles and performance opportunities on campus, but the Gospel choir is unique [in] its repertoire and its goal to lift the spirits of others. "

Again, the production itself was marvelous. Every song was orchestrated and arranged to fill the chapel with wondrous sound and energy. In one piece, the audience was encouraged to stand, clap, and hug one another in praise of not only God but in humanity. The point was made that God made us in his image, and therefore, we all should treat each other with the same kindness and respect that we owe ourselves.

Now, I won't pretend that I left with any answers or real revelations. None of my questions were answered. My relationship with God, or lack thereof has not changed. And in many ways I am still the same.

But I did walk away with a new faith. A faith in humanity.

In this time of anger, fear and despair it is very easy to give in and give up. But Rejoice encourages their audience to love again. To not only love God but also for one another—from friend, to sibling, to parent, to child—we cannot forget to have faith in each other. I was reminded of this and I am forever grateful.

Gather around:

Senior recitals take the campus by storm

By Lauren D. Mazur
Arts & Culture Editor

Senior recitals, the sum of one's academic progress and skill, all of which conspire and merge into a singular day of music, talent, and overall artistry. We've interviewed and featured various senior recitals in the past—highlighting seniors individually. However, last weekend, as what usually happens towards the end of the semester, the entity that is the 'senior recital' clustered together to such a point where four senior recitals were happening. I decided that this would be as good of a time as any, to cover the senior recital as whole for this week.

First I would to say what an amazing job the recitalists did this weekend. Truly an amazing and diverse repertoire represented and performed very well. Honestly well done.

The senior recital, in many ways, is a dance between one's experience and one's skill. Featuring their primary instrument of study, as well as other instrumentation they may want to feature, the senior recital is chance for the student to perform and represent their skill as a graduate of the music department.

"The themes that I chose for my senior recital were classical and jazz," Jacob Sonnenklar '19 reflected. "I have been playing classical piano since I was in kindergarten and playing jazz since middle school. Between the two of them, jazz has to be my favorite type of genre because of the freedom jazz gives you when soloing."

Sonnenklar's recital took place later in the weekend, featuring the piano as well as percussive instruments such as the vibraphone.

I asked about what pieces struck them the most in their performances. What did they feel had to be featured in their recitals?

"The piece that stuck out to me the most in my senior recital was Aqua Harp, the last piece in my program," Sonnenklar explained. "Aqua Harp is one of the animations in a video series called Animusic, which basically is a combination of the words "Animation" and "music" featuring animated instruments that can play themselves through MIDI. The first time I saw Animusic was on PBS years ago while watching TV and after watching it I became fascinated in MIDI and how it can be used to create a whole world of music."

Curious, I checked out the video to see how it sounded myself. It was an interesting and stark difference compared to hearing Sonnenklar's live performance.

Sonnenklar also wanted to leave a message for the future music majors if Muhlenberg.

"If I were to give any advice to future Music Major students, I would tell them the following: As a student majoring in music, try to participate in the many ensembles offered at Muhlenberg. They are so much fun and offer a nice break after a long day of class."

Karly McCloskey / The Muhlenberg Weekly

One of the senior recitalists, Michelle Murray '19 performing vocals.

The other senior recitals that occured over the weekend include Micaaela Barczak '19, Michelle Murray '19 and Ashley Hiester '19.

The Shanty on 19th:

Gordon Ramsay and the realities of reality television

By Jesse Honigberg
Contributing Writer

Photo Courtesy of David Pullig

Ramsay is known for his fiery reality TV personality.

The bearded guy in the Lehigh Valley Phantoms jersey stared down at his plate of burnt, blackened scallops and, with disgust, exclaimed "Is this a joke?"

To nearby patrons, it could have been the rude ramblings of just another loud-mouthed hockey fanatic. But The Shanty on 19th owner, Joe Tatasciore soon learned these words would mark the beginning of an epic journey to renovate the iconic Allentown restaurant that is situated about a half mile from Muhlenberg College.

It was restaurant makeover artist and world renowned chef Gordon Ramsay behind the disguise of beard and hockey jersey. Ramsay and his team had selected Tatasciore's restaurant for a three-month filming process pieced together with hidden cameras, interviews, a 24-hour makeover process, revamped menu, and a grand re-opening.

"You really didn't know what to expect," said Tatasciore, who agreed to an interview to reveal behind-the-scene details of the filming process for what is now the second episode of

season two for Ramsay's FOX-TV reality show; "24 Hours to Hell and Back."Tatasciore eventually implemented many of Ramsay's recommendations for the restaurant that has been around Allentown's West End area of 19th Street in one form or another since 1968. But Tatasciore wrote off much of the reality show as unreality.

The TV show's official episode listing describes the bistro as a "failing restaurant" on the "brink of disaster." However, Tatasciore said the show tended to exaggerate their issues, and that The Shanty was never at a serious risk of closing down.

"It was a lot of BS… that's TV," says Tatasciore. "We were doing well before the show, and business is doing better."

The team was there for five days of taping, for about 15 hours a day, and Tatasciore describes the filming process as a chaotic scene.

Tatasciore claimed the show was very pieced together, cutting out a lot of what was filmed, including Tatasciore's bizarre one-on-one with Gordon Ramsay in his SUV at three o'clock in the morning. The original cut had Ramsay trying to breathalyze Tatasciore, bringing him to a nearby church with four cameramen inside. The episode shows Tatasciore drinking at the bar during service on a few occasions, and he explains that the show wrongly framed him as a person with an alcohol addiction.

"I want to make a shirt that says 'I'm not an alcoholic, I'm not in debt,'" says Tatasciore.

The show, Tatasciore said, also failed to mention that his wife, who was managing her jewelry business, was also in the works of building a coffee shop, and Tatasciore was helping her build it at the time of the show. Since the renovations, his wife works at the restaurant about four days a week.

The after-effects of the show proved to help the business, Tatasciore said, with people coming in from Delaware, New York, and New Jersey to meet Joe and everyone on the show.

"The night the show aired, it was so busy," he said. "I didn't watch the episode until a week later."

When the producers were first scouting out the area, Tatasciore did not want his restaurant to be part of the show, but once he found out that they would invest $100,000 in the business, he gave them the go-ahead. The budget funded new décor, tables, chairs, barstools, booths, updated kitchen equipment, and better quality food. Another change for the restaurant was its menu, cutting its large 130-item menu into just 13.

After the show, Tatasciore added a few of the popular items back to the menu, bringing it to 36 items.

"The original menu was a bit much, but now it's a lot more manageable," he says.

Executive Chef Kennedy Agos, when asked to interview, declined because she said she wasn't feeling very well. The episode mentions the stress of working in the kitchen tended to amplify her heart condition.

"We still fight sometimes," says Tatasciore. "But at the end of the day, we hug it out."

Tatasciore's father, Joe Sr., was also working at the restaurant and helping out, but was given the boot by Ramsay after cameras caught him talking about Agos behind her back and saying to customers how bad the food was. Since the show, Tatasciore says that he has found a new job and doesn't help out much with the business anymore.

Currently, The Shanty on 19th has proven to be a success story of the restaurants Gordon

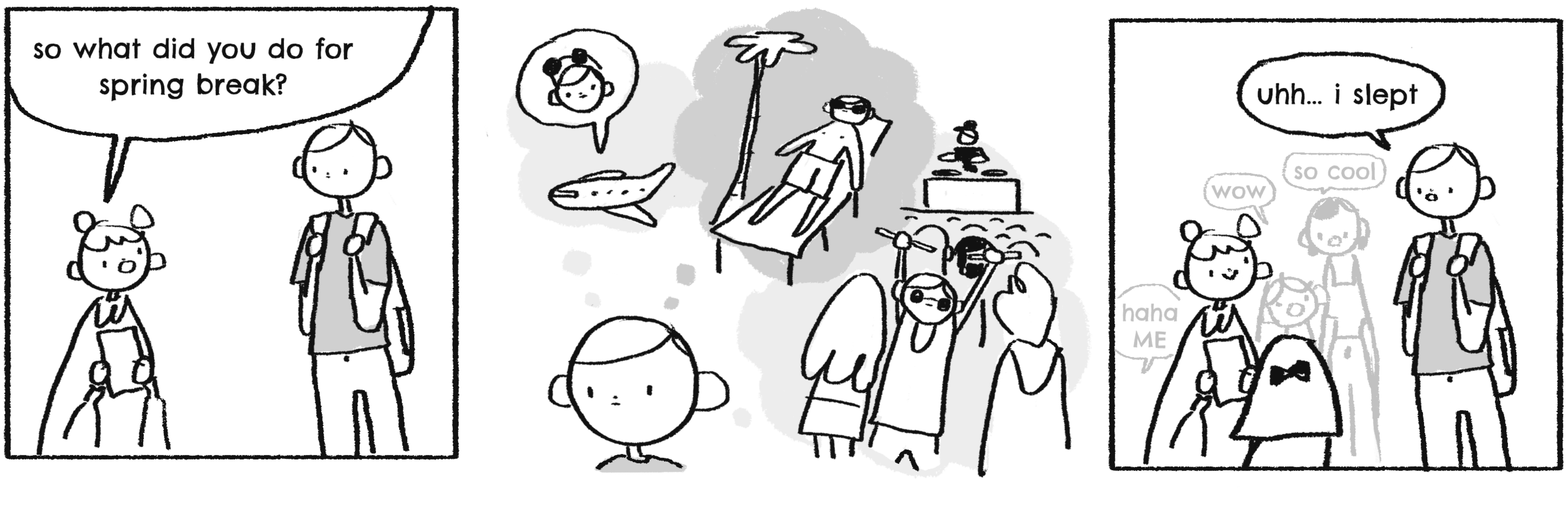
Ramsay has visited. In his other experiences on his last show "Kitchen Nightmares," some restaurants were able to bounce back while others went out of business shortly after his visit.

Since the show, the restaurant has received mixed views online. In a Kitchen Nightmares update, customers seem to enjoy the burger and fries, and the new décor is an improvement, but there are still complaints about the service and some of the food items, including "mussels undercooked and tasted rotten" and a "very high noise level."

The makeover happened around late October this year, so perhaps there are still some adjustments for all of the changes made in such a short time period.

"The overall experience of the show was awesome," says Tatasciore. "But would I do it again? Absolutely not."

21st century cool
by jessica bensimhon



so what did you do for spring break?
uhh… i slept
wow
so cool
haha ME

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

Operation Varsity Blues

Editorial

What students and parents can learn from the latest college admissions scandal

Ever since news of the college admissions scandal Operation Varsity Blues broke, attention has turned to the parents and the idea of “lawnmower parents” or “snowplow parents” has entered mainstream media. Lawnmower parents “mow down” obstacles their children experience, making success easy, failure impossible, and claiming credit from the child. Yet the generation who is actually being affected - the “kids” as the media calls them, even though they are all over 18 - are being ignored. It’s only parents who are being charged, since it is only the parents who are acting out, stated the Washington Post. Parents even went to extreme lengths to make sure their children never found out the accomplishments were not theirs. One parent paid someone to take their child’s test, then faked proctoring their own kid’s test so the son would believe the test score was his own. Not only is this completely immoral, but what message are they conveying to their young adult son or daughter? What kind of psychological and social damage is this causing?For the number of articles giving advice on “How not to be a lawnmower parent” there are astoundingly few pieces helping children stand up to their lawnmower parents. The media focus has taken the solution out of young adult’s hands, who are often the victims of these schemes and recipients of the social humiliation, and gone right into the parents’. These students’ earned merit is completely washed away by their parent’s overinvolvement, and with no way to empower themselves the message from the media echoes that of their own parents: We don’t trust you to handle any situation yourselves.

“Parents who game the system are telling their children that they can’t achieve something on their own,” Erica Komisar, psychoanalyst, wrote in The Wall Street Journal article The Sickness Behind the College Scandal.

“When parents use their money or influence to get their kid into an elite institution without considering whether it’s the right social or academic environment for the child, it may be because they’re more concerned about their own status than the child’s well-being and success. It can give youngsters a sense of entitlement rather than accomplishment,” said Komisar, who is currently writing a book on raising an adolescent in the age of anxiety.

In response to the scandal, The Wall Street Journal published an article with the apt title: “Remember, it’s their college years, not yours” where they argue that so much of the pressure college students feel comes from their parent’s projection and desire to live vicariously through their children. Their children’s success is compensation for a parent’s failure or disappointment; i.e., my child must get into an Ivy league school because I didn’t.

What’s even worse is that this suggests that offspring are just a continuation of the parent’s narrative, rather than individual, separate beings with dreams, goals, and flaws of their own.

It’s one thing to teach your children how to learn from your mistakes, and to help guide them in the direction they wish to sail. It’s another to completely lawnmow, plow, and curate the path that you wish you took and then shove them down that road. We’re talking about the difference between “Honey, would you like me to proofread your college essay?” and “You’ll never get in with this, I’ll just rewrite it.” Saying “I’ll do it myself!” is stripping your child of a learning opportunity, not to mention parental attention, and leaving them feeling that any and all judgements they make are doomed from the start. It causes anxiety in decision making, and lack of confidence in their own choices.

In an article called You Need to Teach Your Kids How to Fail, Lahey told the Huffington Post: “Like everyone, parents tend to look for concrete indicators of success and progress. But because there are no parenting report cards or performance evaluations, they simply look to their kids’ achievements and co-opt them… Parents think, ‘My child made the traveling soccer team, so that means I get an A for my parenting,’ or ‘They won the science fair. That means I’m an A+ parent,’”

Not only is our college system so broken that entrance can be purchased, but the psychological framework of expecting earned grades for effort continues even after the school ends and far into parenthood. Even ten or more years after graduating, people are still looking for obvious, blatant markings of their success in everyday occurrences, unable to measure themselves without numbers or letter markings.

What’s even more ironic: The New York Times published an opinion piece titled “How much does getting into an elite college actually matter?” The answer: Not much, apparently, unless you are a first-gen student.

“Students who are poised to succeed tend to do so even if they don’t get into the Ivy League,” said Kevin Carey, the director of New America Ed and the author of The End of College in the piece. “It turns out that students who come from less privileged backgrounds benefit greatly from selective colleges. Elite higher education gives them social capital they didn’t already have.”

Muhlenberg, meanwhile, has some safeguards against the two largest components in Operation Varsity Blues. First off, submitting SAT and ACT scores to Muhlenberg is optional, although it is required for merit and honor scholarships. Instead, students can submit a graded paper from high school and interview with a member of the admissions staff. In other words, SAT and ACT scores are not an integral part of getting accepted to Muhlenberg.

Additionally, Muhlenberg is in the NCAA’s Division III, thus not allowing athletic scholarships to be offered to student athletes. Instead, student athletes can qualify for need-based and academic scholarships, like any other student.

That being said, Muhlenberg does, and will continue to have a budget to balance and a reputation to maintain. The Weekly intends to look more closely at the admissions process and the challenges colleges face balancing money and merit in the coming weeks. So stay tuned- the investigation will continue.

WHAT A HUMDINGER!

Spring break at Daytona Beach

By Will Wamser
Op/Ed Editor & Humorist

We are hot off of the tail of the greatest holiday there is. The only problem is this isn’t just one day, but it sure as heck is holi. No, this holiday is a whole week long. I am of course talking about SPRING BREAK, let me hear you cheer. Spring Bis the time for jocks, nerds and goths alike to let loose and break free from societal norms. Spring Break is full of magic, it is the one time of the year where drinking all day is not considered sad but is actually encouraged, I guess except for St. Patrick’s Day, Mardi Gras, New Year’s Eve, Octoberfest, and Fourth of July to name a few. But the point is that on Spring Break it is also O.K. to drink a copious amount of alcohol and take dangerous party drugs. Spring Break is a time for everyone to come together, both hot dudes and hot chicks alike, and this year I was finally able to participate in the festivities.

My father is a preacher man and was never much for saying ‘I love you.’ He never allowed me to leave our gated community, NYC represent, but now that we are estranged for reasons I can but won’t go into I am living my life to the fullest. The first step of living life was embracing Spring Break, so I went to the capital of Spring Break and party central, Daytona Beach. Now there were definitely some good things and some not so good things about Spring Break at Daytona Beach, hanging out with my whole dang crew getting lifted out of this freaking world and back again was obviously a big up to the whole thing. I didn’t love that there were no cups available to drink from, everything had to either come from a funnel or off of a woman’s breasts, stomach or buttocks. As a Christian boy, let’s just say I went in thirst.

That is not to say that I didn’t love Spring Break, because I did. I saw and experienced things I had only ever read about from half burned Hustler magazines I would find in the quarry, #sponsoredpost. Spring Break is truly the time to let loose and free yourself of all pressures from societal norms. This is especially true for women, I have never seen so many women with so few inhibitions. I hate to go blue here, but many of the women wore little to no clothing, instead using the a combination of mud and leaves to stay warm at night. Women also got creative with their makeup, instead of seeing the same old foundation and mascara, most of the women covered themselves in the blood of animals that they had killed for sustenance. And anytime that isn’t Spring Break there is so much pressure on women to eat the right things, but for this one week I saw women eating raw meat and eating out of trash cans, you go girl! They were wild animals! They were actually acting a lot like a wild animal would now that I think about it.

Now don’t get me wrong, the men also had their fun. Their fun was mostly encouraging the women to act in these ways. I can’t tell you how many times I came upon a bunch of guys surrounding and cheering on two women going at it. The women were usually fighting over who had claim to a section of the beach and the winner was only decided with blood and the dudes loved it. There were actually a group of men with a camera going around asking these women to bear their teeth for the camera and would give them a skinned rabbit if they did it.

As much as the women were letting loose, it seemed like the guys were the ones really enjoying themselves. I’m certain there were some women there who were living in the woods for themselves, rummaging through trash cans for themselves, howling at the moon for themselves. But I also have to wonder how many of the woman were reverting to their animal instincts because it was the thing to do. There was one woman who kept using human language rather than communicating with a series of grunts, snorts and hisses. She was ridiculed relentlessly by all us boys until she was banned from the beach for life. These girls did gone feral, but at the end of the week most of the women left bruised and scarred, often at the hands women as the men cheered on, but the men walked away unharmed.

How to survive on a smoke-free campus

By Chrystina Obleschuk
Contributing Writer

Recently Muhlenberg College announced that it will become a smoke and tobacco-free campus starting in August of 2019. Muhlenberg College will join over 2,000 colleges nationwide who have instituted similar policies. Smoking, both traditional cigarettes and electronic cigarettes, is a serious public health issue, especially for young adults. More than 80 percent of traditional smokers started smoking before the age of 18 and surveys have found that over 40 percent of high school students have used an electronic cigarette at least once. The nicotine in both types of cigarettes is extremely addictive and using these products in even small quantities can have adverse health effects.

Since the College understands that nicotine is extremely addictive, they have collaborated with a local hospital to bring a smoking cessation program to the campus. This is a seven week program, that will begin on Mar. 11 and go through April 29. The group will meet once a week from 6:00 p.m.- 7:15 p.m.

This group composed of faculty, staff, and students will be provided with free traditional tobacco cessation therapies, such as nicotine patches, for the first four weeks. After that period, the cost will be $120, which is comparable to the price of vaping pods or cigarettes for a person who smokes a moderate amount.

If this program is not convenient for people, there a couple of cessation programs also being offered close by, at Cedar Crest College. These programs range in times and days of the week in an attempt to try and accommodate ranging schedules.

People who have been smoking for a long time may wonder if there is any point in quitting since they have already done so much damage to their body, but they are wrong. The CDC has released a timeline of all the positive physiological changes your body undergoes when you stop smoking.

Within 12 hours of quitting, the carbon monoxide levels in your blood return to normal. Your risk of heart attack declines after just three months of quitting. One year after quitting, your risk of coronary heart disease is half that of a smoker. Within 10 years of quitting, your risk of lung cancer is half that of a smoker. And within 15 years of quitting, your risk of coronary heart disease is that of a nonsmoker.

If you are looking to quit and need help, but do not know where to start, you can contact the American Lung Association Hotline at 1-800-LUNGUSA. This hotline can help you learn about the benefits of quitting and how to deal with cigarette cravings.

If you are currently a smoker and you are trying to quit, Lehigh Valley Health Network offers the following tips: choose a date to quit and stick to it, choose a family member or friend to support you, just because you fail once does not mean that you should stop trying, and try spending time in areas where you can not smoke. They also gives some suggestions for how to distract yourself from cravings: try exercise, contact your support person, chew gum, eat a healthy snack, listen to music, take a warm shower or bath, and most importantly remind yourself of the reasons you want to quit.

The American Lung Association offers some guidance for someone who is trying to help a smoker quit. First of all, be there for them and support them even if they fail because many smokers have to try quitting a few times before they can quit for good. Do not nag or scold your friend, it will not work. Instead focus on being supportive of their efforts. Spend time with them, and help them stay away from places where people will be smoking. Lastly, reward their efforts. It can be simple like letting them pick what movie to see or it can be bigger like taking them out to dinner when they reach a milestone. Most importantly, support your friend because nicotine withdrawal can a really tough transition. Quitting smoking can be extremely difficult but by using the programs and people around you, it can be done.

WHAT A HUMDINGER!

The shush heard ‘round the world

By Jarrett Azar
Humorist

B-Level of the Trexler Library here at Muhlenberg is too quiet and it needs to fix itself soon or else I’m OUT. DONE. DIDDLY SQUAT, PEACE. For those of you who aren’t “in the know” like me, there are three levels of the Trexler Library. A-Level, where all volumes are welcome, B-Level, where moderate volumes are welcome, and finally, C-Level, where no volumes are welcome. When one used to travel down to B-Level, they would expect the quiet, hushed laughter of a small baby, sweet as the sun itself. I remember one sweet summer day, when I used to frequent said B-Level, where I went down with a couple of guys who were up to no good. We all started making trouble in the Trexler neighborhood. Those were the days. However, in today’s B-Level, all they get is the same silence, and expectation to uphold such silence, that one could only expect of C-Level. Plus, it smells. I’ll say it, I’m not afraid (to take a stand, everybody, come take my hand). It smells like the big Mothman, with all those old, stinky stinky books. I’m talking to you, B-Level, fix yourself, before the stench of silence takes hold for good.

Why am i bringing this up now, and not long ago as the prophecies foretold, you ask? Well, today, I was rudely, and I mean RUDELY, shushed on B-Level for talking at a very optimal volume for the area. Little did they know they upset the queen, the one with the fingers and the power to write. Now before we move on, what was I talking about you might ask? You’ll have to stay tuned to find out. What was I doing? Not hacking into The Weekly. Who was I talking to? Will Wamser and Karly McCloskey, two of my best friends. They love me, I swear. Anyways, this shush sent me into a fit of inner rage. Shush me? The writer of great articles such as “The Uncomfortable Truth about Water”? How dare they. Muhlenberg is far too mad these days, and this just shows it. Even still, you may assume that I was embarrassed, which I was but that’s a secret between you and I only ;). I couldn’t believe my ears, the audacity of the person shushing me was otherworldly. Who would shush me? The best friend of Will Wamser, and soon-to-be Staff Writer for the weekly. Did they know who they were shushing? Do you think they’ll regret it? Probably.

The point is, this is #NotMyBLevel. It’s too quiet. The expectations are that of C-Level. Where am I supposed to go to do work with my friends but not worry that I’m typing too loud? And what is with that smell? It’s purely putrid, less like the Mothman, more like his farts. Don’t shush people on B-Level, it makes it look bad and that’s just mean. With a little work, B-Level can return to its former fun loving glory, but the queen (thats me) can’t fix it alone. I say we all go to B-Level, tomorrow, at 1:30 P.M. and talk at whatever level we feel comfortable with, regardless of a shush or two. I hope to see all my good friends there. While we’re at it, let’s all go find that big Mothman and take him down and rid the place of his farty stench. Let’s #SaveMyBLevel.

P.S. I am STILL a legit writer at the weekly, not a hacker, and Emily Drake is STILL fine, we’re good friends.

Yours Truly,
The Queen, Wataholic Numero Uno

When electoral politics just aren’t enough

By Kenzie Richards
Staff Writer

If you’re politically active, you might have noticed that most popular political organizations on college campuses center on things like “calling representatives” and “writing to your senator.” In America’s current political climate, it′s clear that reaching out to elite government officials in the hopes that they might actually do their jobs instead of continuing to be beholden to lobbyists isn′t enough. And neither is voting.

The fact that our political sphere is overrun by individualist electoral politics (″if you don′t like your representative, vote!″) is by design. We can accomplish a lot more by doing the hard work of organizing groups that are committed to shared values and pursuing avenues of collective action – unionizing, striking, sit-ins, and educating our communities about these different ways of making a difference. This requires more work than voting, sure, but if you consider movements like the Civil Rights Movement of the 60s, or the teachers′ strikes that are occurring all over the country right now, it′s much more effective than voting for someone who probably won′t end up doing much anyway.

Don′t get me wrong, it′s not like voting is meaningless. Presidents and other elected officials control the political atmosphere in our country, and our officials seem to be efficient when it comes to actions like expanding our police state and putting immigrants in concentration camps. The efforts of Republicans to make voting difficult for people in low-income communities speaks to how afraid politicians are of their constituents. If they′re willing to make it so much harder for people to do the simplest political action an individual American can do, it′s no wonder our political atmosphere is structured to make us think that′s the only action any of us can do to change. As you can see, the same reasons why voting is important are the same reasons why collective action is necessary – only by joining together as a group of people with different values than our officials can we change the conversation.

Collective action isn′t the same thing as a protest. It can feel empowering to see a group of people all gathering together to speak out against an injustice, but they are often missed opportunities to recruit and organize people to do things other than march in a street and carry a sign. Speaking as someone who stumbled into a random protest in DC several years ago, I also think it′s disgusting how protests are now a way to market and sell clothing that people wear as a substitute for any political action, such as shirts that say ″Resist Trump.”

Labor unions are by far the best example of collective action, but any group of individuals that share common interests and are able to find avenues to accomplish or promote those interests through educating the public can be effective. A good political group won′t solely focus on electoral politics to try to accomplish their goals, but it should be one of the systems it seeks to change, especially because it is the system Americans are most familiar with. Collective action doesn′t have to be intimidating or grand – it can be as simple as getting together with a group of friends to plant more trees if you care about the environment.

If you feel alienated and discouraged by politics, I encourage you to take part in any of our local political organizations, both on and off campus. If you′re already involved in some, put your heads together and think of ways you can accomplish change other than calling representatives.

Rook takes home the hardware

After a sensational rookie campaign, guard Dan Gaines '22 comes away with highest honor from the Centennial Conference

By Alex Blum
Sports Editor

The men's basketball season may have ended short, but it still found a way to end a nice note. On Feb. 26, guard, Dan Gaines '22 rounded out his stellar rookie campaign with another entry into the Muhlenberg record books. The freshman standout became the first men's basketball player to be named the Centennial Conference Rookie of the Year. Gaines added to the honor as he was also selected to the All-CC second team, while teammate, Matt Gnias '20, received All-CC honors. While a trip to the playoffs did not come to life for the Mules, this was exactly what was needed to uplift the entire team and gear themselves for 2019-20.

Gaines made his case for the award, starting in all 25 games, hitting double figures in 22 of those contests, and ended the season with 15.4 PPG and 3.9 APG, good enough for first in the conference. Although his superb play all throughout the year made him a likely candidate, Gaines was surprised to learn that he had been bestowed with the distinction of Rookie of the Year and the first to do so in Mule history. "It was surprising and an absolute honor to find out that I was the first player in program history to receive this honor. My very first reaction was to immediately thank my teammates for putting me in a situation to succeed, especially our two seniors," said Gaines.

Everyone in his support system wasted no time in sending their congratulations. "Both my teammates and coaches were very congratulatory and happy for me, same with my parents," said Gaines. "My dad said, though, that I should be thanking him because he claims he taught me everything I know."

While the incredible recognition is something to be proud of, the goal is ultimately to be a contender in the Centennial Conference playoffs and capture the elusive Centennial Conference Championship. Gaines can't help but be reminded of the unsuccessful season, and while the awards are great, they are not his motivation for further success for himself and the entire team.

"Although I am humbled by these honors, not making the playoffs and reaching our goals as a team is what I remember most about this season. Coming up short is my main motivation to improve my game even further so that I can help put our team in a better position to win more games next season."

Gaines', along with Gnias' recognition, is certainly something to behold. However, all of it boils down to continuing the improvement of their game and once again advancing to the CC playoffs, where they hope to make a deep run. Clearly the troubles that the squad faced head-on are still on the forefront of their memory, but while that my be so, it is only motivation as they work to overcome their struggles. Returning to the hardwood next year, Gaines and Gnias are eager to compete at even a higher level and continue to be leaders on a Muhlenberg squad flooding with potential.

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Gaines '22 capped his incredible season as the Centennial Conference Rookie of the Year.

Freshman stud tabbed CC most outstanding rookie

Corrin Ferrizzi '22 adds to her to her list of accolades, obtaining most outstanding rookie and all-mideast region honors

By Samantha Brenner
Contributing Writer

Her age was not a factor. Jumper and thrower, Corrin Ferrizzi '22, of Pottstown, PA, stunned the entire track and field team, the Centennial Conference, and all her coaches, as she was recognized for her achievements at the Centennial Conference Indoor Championship. Ferrizzi was the first Muhlenberg athlete to be named Centennial Conference Most Outstanding Rookie, as well as being named All-Mideast Region by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. Obtaining all of her medals in the triple jump and 4x100, Ferizzi earned such praise from the coaches association for being a top-five triple jumper in the Mideast.

> **"I feel honored to be recognized."**

These medals and titles Ferrizzi has accumulated her first year at Muhlenberg has made her a force to be reckoned with. With only a few months of college under her belt, Corrin has made a forceful statement and has the rest of her college career to look forward to.

Since the very beginning of the indoor track season, she has placed in the top five virtually every time, and most recently, in her first place finish at the 2019 Centennial Conference Indoor Championship in the triple jump. Corrin was the first to claim a gold medal for Mules since 2006.

Being recruited, Ferrizzi has made head coach, Brad Hackett, a happy man. "I think it is exciting as a coach any time anyone on the team earns postseason recognition and I also have to believe that there is a benefit from a recruiting standpoint any time members of our team have success," said Hackett.

Hackett understands how deserving she is and knows that she has worked hard for those gold and silver medals and the several recognitions.

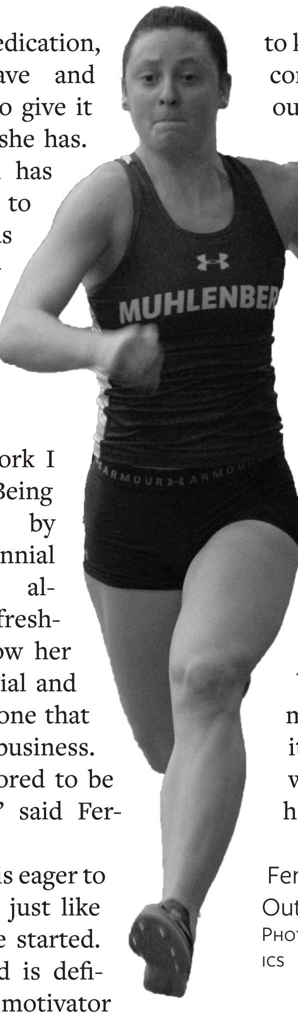
While the winter season is coming to a close soon enough and with their next meet at Lafayette on Mar. 30, Coach Hackett wants to remain focused on what the squad still has to finish before moving on to the spring, and on to her sophomore year on the team. "As far as next year is concerned, we will have to cross that bridge when we come to it after the outdoor season concludes."

Leading up to her recognitions, Ferrizzi had been named Muhlenberg College athlete of the week, impressing the Division III school as well as Division I schools with her talent and perseverance, not letting her age and inexperience hinder her performance.

This honor certainly did not come easy. After hours of practice and dedication, Ferrizzi gave and continues to give it everything she has. This award has meant a lot to her. "I was very excited. It was amazing to see the results of all the hard work I put in." Being recognized by the Centennial Conference allowed the freshman to show her true potential and show everyone that she means business. "I feel honored to be recognized" said Ferrizzi.

Ferrizzi is eager to end strong, just like the way she started. "This award is definitely a big motivator to keep practicing hard" Ferrizzi continued. The next step, the outdoor season. With this season flying by, Corrin wants to continue on her hot streak and is anxious to see what the next season brings along. "I hope that I can keep the momentum going into my spring season. I would love to PR again and hopefully be able to qualify for nationals in the outdoor season."

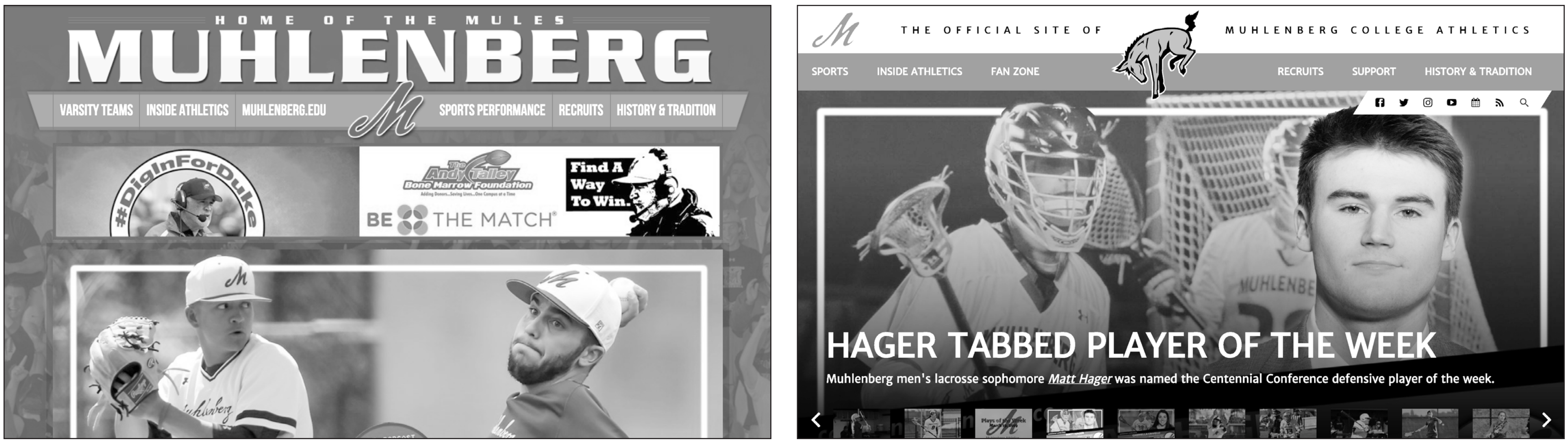
With Hackett, and the rest of her support system behind her, Ferrizzi aims to make this dream into a reality and hopefully come away with many more medals and honors.



Ferrizzi '22 was dubbed the Most Outstanding Rookie by the CC.
Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Ready, set, launch!

The athletic department's web page, often regarded as out of date, received a makeover completed last week



Muhlenberg men's lacrosse sophomore *Matt Hager* was named the Centennial Conference defensive player of the week.

Left: The homepage of the old website as of Jan. 22, 2019. Right: The homepage of the redesigned website as of Mar. 19, 2019

By Noah Brill
Contributing Writer

The athletics department revealed the new look for its virtual home after months of preparing for a much needed update. The former design, which was rendered obsolete by many, has been replaced with a newer, brighter, and cleaner model.

This update seems like it was a long time coming, as many have felt that the website in its former state was not particularly user friendly, less organized, and, at times, felt like something out of the neolithic age of the internet. This was in large part because its landscape had not changed in over five years.

"The redesign was part of our contract renewal with SIDEARM Sports, our website provider. Our site had the same look since we signed on with them in 2014, so an update was in order,"said Sports Information Director Mike Falk.

The making of the new site did not happen overnight, and many parties were involved. The redesign entailed a lot of research, collaboration, "A group of people, including Lynn Tubman (Director of Athletics and Recreation), Lily Otu (Assistant Director of Athletics), coaches and students began the redesign process last September by looking at other college websites and exploring what features we wanted on ours. Once we communicated our wishes to SIDEARM, they sent back a series of design drafts and revisions for our approval. After we had a final design approved, we were given a test site to update until the new site launched last week" said Falk.

Though the new version of the site is merely an update, it feels almost completely new to someone who is used to navigating the old version. The feature images on the homepage stand out with appealing titles that blend together nicely. They are also supplemented with the athletic department's upcoming schedule, highlights from the prior week, and noteworthy Twitter updates available at the scroll of a user. Another noticeable change is the prominence of the hall of fame section.

In addition to the front page, each team's section is much improved as well. Both schedules and box scores are easier to attain and parse through, particularly because visitors are able to sort through data in more ways than ever before. Tackling this challenge will make it easier for student-athletes and fans to better understand the results of the games and matches.

The most marked difference, however, is the way the tabs on top and their respective subgroups have been rejiggered in a way that somebody would likely be able to find everything they need under one header. This could be beneficial to prospective athletes and current students who are not affiliated with a team, as members of those two groups are more likely to be first time users.

Although the process was arduous, the results thus far seem to be a real home run. "The transition has been seamless for us, since the process of updating the site on the back end has not changed. Hopefully it has been for our site viewers as well. The feedback has been extremely positive so far," Falk added.

Freshman pitcher carrying softball to success

Cora Bridges '22 has propelled her team to a 12-4 start, and grabbed some accolades along the way

By Jason Grant
Assistant Sports Editor

The Muhlenberg softball team is off to their best start since 2014, courtesy of some stellar performances by a freshman pitcher. They have roared out of the gates, going 11-3, nearly matching last years win total of 12. All of this before they have even played a conference game.

Thanks to the pitching of Cora Bridgers '22, the Mules rolled through their 12 games in Florida over spring break. They came home with a 10-2 record, including a win over 18th ranked Rhodes College. In four starts in Florida, she threw four complete games, leading the Mules to wins in all of them. She nearly pitched two no-hitters that were eventually one hitters, one being a meaningless single in the last half inning.

The freshman hurler was humble, however, when asked about her hot start, "I would 100 percent attribute my performance as well as all of my teammate′s incredible performances to our preseason. We all worked our behinds off to advance ourselves as a team as well as individuals, sometimes going to triple sessions each day. For myself specifically, it was the amount of time spent upon focusing on what I can use as a powerful force in the circle, asking myself what pitches have been consistent and how can I continue to make them better." And, she made sure to credit her teammates for her success, "In addition, a pitcher is nothing without her defense and offense behind her and I cannot thank my team enough for their insane effort and talent."

Through the first nine starts of Bridgers collegiate career, she is 6-1 with a 0.67 ERA. She broke a Muhlenberg record along the way, becoming the first Mule ever to win in her first six starts.

> **"I would 100% attribute my performance as well as all of my teammate′s incredible performances to our preseason."**

Bridgers had an outrageous 0.31 ERA through those first six, which was good enough for the best in all of Division III for pitchers with a minimum of 30 innings pitched. For her outstanding performances, she has been awarded Centennial Conference pitcher of the week two weeks in a row.

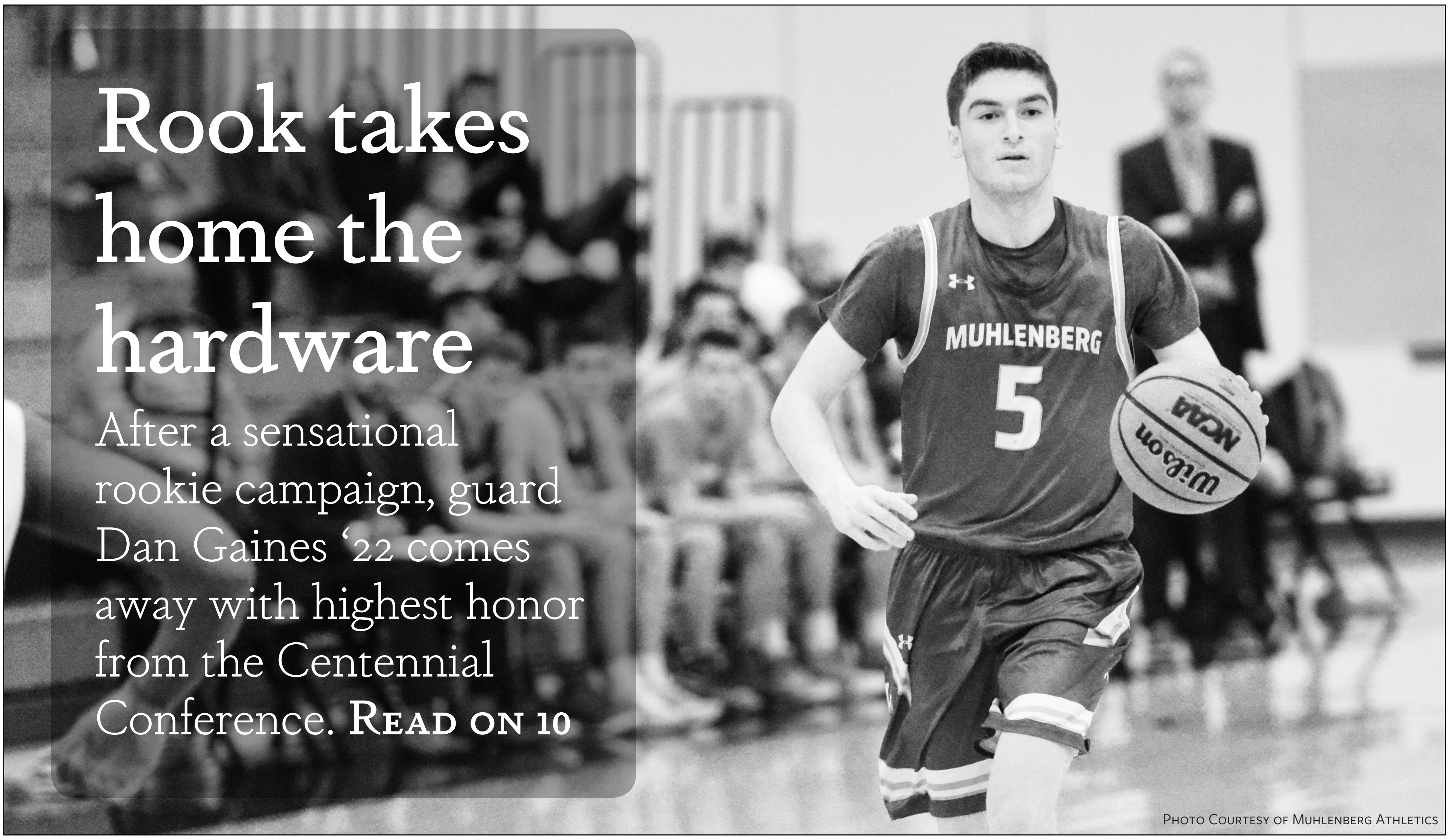
She has seemed to handle to transition to college softball extremely well, which she attributed to preparation, "The transition from high school to college softball has been a long road beginning early in the fall. There is an extreme difference of overall effort that any player needs to put in to be efficient on the field, such as lifts, conditioning, long practices, extra reps, etc., and off the field in school, continuously catching up and getting ahead on classwork," she said. "Aside from managing time wisely, an obvious increase of talent in competition during games, and of course the early mornings, the transition was smooth and definitely bearable for me."

Bridgers is not new to success on the diamond. At Steinert High School, Bridgers' teams were among the best in New Jersey for all four years. They racked up three Central Jersey Sectional Championships, and collected two state championships.

Muhlenberg has not won the Conference Tournament since 2011, but as of now they have the most wins in the Centennial Conference. These are just the first few weeks of Bridgers collegiate career, and what will hopefully lead to four years of contention for another conference title.

Bridgers will be heavily relied on in the coming weeks when the group kicks off a tough stretch of conference games on March 30. They take on conference rivals Gettysburg and Swarthmore in a three day stretch.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS



Rook takes home the hardware

After a sensational rookie campaign, guard Dan Gaines '22 comes away with highest honor from the Centennial Conference. **Read on 10**

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Men's and women's tennis:

Teams kick off season with spring break trip to Florida

By Alex Blum
Sports Editor

Muhlenberg women's tennis embarked on their spring break trip to Florida and began their play on March 2 in the Lake Nona area against the Alvernia University Golden Wolves. The Mar. 2 start date marked the beginning of a rigid schedule as the Mules were forced to go up against three schools in as many days. The highly talented Muhlenberg squad, in those three days, took on Alvernia University, a Division-II program in Seton Hill University, and the St. Francis Fighting Saints. Following those action packed days of play, the group had some time to soak up some sun with a few days off. However, no time was wasted for on March 16, they, once again on campus, went right back to the courts.

As they commenced their highly anticipated trip down south, the Mules were tasked with opening up to formidable opponents in Alvernia and Seton Hill. While those matches didn't go in their favor, Shelby Knafo '19 reflected on the challenges the team faced as well as the remarkable competitive nature of her squad. "Seton Hill being the Division-II program it is and with that offering scholarships for players to come, we knew the competition was going to be on a different level, but we still played strongly and kept up during the games." When reflecting on their eventual victory versus the Fighting Saints, Knafo once again commended the entire team for their endless amounts of hard work. "We had all been practicing and working very hard, so it was nice to have the outcome of the match portray that."

On the men's side, they picked up their first win of the trip with an all-around effort downing the Monmouth Fighting Scots 9-0. Then, following a rain out against Christian Brothers, the group returned to the court and grabbed a second straight victory in matchup with a Division-II program in Saint Anselm. Lucas Bueno '22, a key contributor to the Mules' success that day, explained how he and the team were able to find success. "I believe whenever the team feels happy to play and has fun on the court is when we play our best tennis, and that what the team was able to do that day. For me personally, however, it's mainly about how I feel on the court regarding my timing on the ball and movement. If those two things come naturally during a match I start going through the motions and play at my best. The key to our victory was maintaining an aggressive game plan throughout the matches and going for our shots."

In first time hitting the court since their spring break adventure, both the teams squared off with the Colonels of Wilkes University. Wilkes, being a team that has competed for their conference championship 12 years consecutively, the Mules came in ready to take on whatever was hit their way.

Although the weather conditions posed a tough playing environment, both Bueno and Knafo were happy with their overall play. "I believe that we played a good match and overall against Wilkes even with the tough conditions," said Bueno. Knafo acknowledged that, "We went into this match knowing it was going to be difficult, but given the circumstances we are proud of the way we played."

Muhlenberg tennis may have barriers to overcome, Knafo completely understands that, "Tennis is very much a process; you can play only so good on a particular day." She also understands that Coach Jason Toedter has been a crucial aspect of that process and has been invaluable to the program. "Coach has been nothing but supportive and is always motivating us as well as helping us in reaching our highest potential as players," said Knafo.

Coming up this week in
SPORTS
Mar. 21 to Mar. 24

Women's Lacrosse
Muhlenberg vs **Bryn Mawr**
Saturday, Mar. 23 @ 1:00 pm
Scotty Wood Stadium

Men's Baseball
Muhlenberg vs **Penn State Abington**
Friday, Mar. 22 @ 3:30 pm
CedarCreek Field

Men's Lacrosse
Muhlenberg vs **St. Mary's**
Saturday, Mar. 23 @ 2:00 pm
St. Mary's City, MD

Women's Tennis
Muhlenberg vs **Dickinson**
Saturday, Mar. 23 @ 1:00 pm
Kern Field Courts

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The Muhlenberg Weekly

MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2019
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NEWS

After careful deliberation, Muhlenberg has decided to eliminate Zagster Bike program only a few months after its announcement and implementation.

Photo Courtesy of Office of Communications

read more on 3

A&C

Following roles on Broadway and beyond, Tony Award-winning actress Sutton Foster will be coming to Summer Music Theatre to reprise role as Reno Sweeney in *Anything Goes*.

read more on 5

OP/ED

Just so everyone knows, Erin's going home this weekend, her cousin's wedding (again). If you need to ask her anything, better do it now!

read more on 9

SPORTS

Muhlenberg announces Varsity and J.V. Ping Pong teams to start fall 2019. Now seeking interested players, full requirements detailed in article.

read more on 12

Bieber bus gets new owner

By Laura Schwarz
Asst. News Editor

Since the Bieber Transportation Group's abrupt demise in February, many students have had to seek out new ways to get home from campus without a car. These stranded students are now in luck, however, as the 72-year-old company has been brought back by an unlikely benefactor: pop star, Justin Bieber.

"When I heard that a spectacular bus transportation company had gone out of business, I knew I couldn't leave the wonderful students of Muhlenberg and the people of the Lehigh Valley stranded," explained the 25 year old singer. "I've been looking to expand my transportation-philanthropy work for a while now, and I felt a special affinity to the Bieber Transportation Group for obvious reasons."

Before Bieber Transportation went under last month, it had recently been evicted from the Port Authority Bus Terminal for $214,000 in unpaid bills and as a result, incurred $91,000 in fines for parking their buses on New York City Streets illegally. Justin has already paid off those bills and promises that not only will he improve the company's reliability, he will also be radically changing the appearances of the buses.

"As everyone knows, I'm now a married man. My beautiful wife, Hailey Bieber, is the center of my world, and all Bieber Bus customers can expect her to be the center of their transportation experience as well," said Justin. "Among the changes I've overseen for the buses' exterior will be a fifteen-foot-tall decal of Hailey's face that will be emblazoned on the side of each vehicle. There will also be a large photo of her on the front of the buses, to be placed just right so that the headlights will be perfectly aligned with Hailey's beautiful hazel eyes. I know all my customers will feel incredibly safe knowing that Hailey will be guiding their journey, if only symbolically."

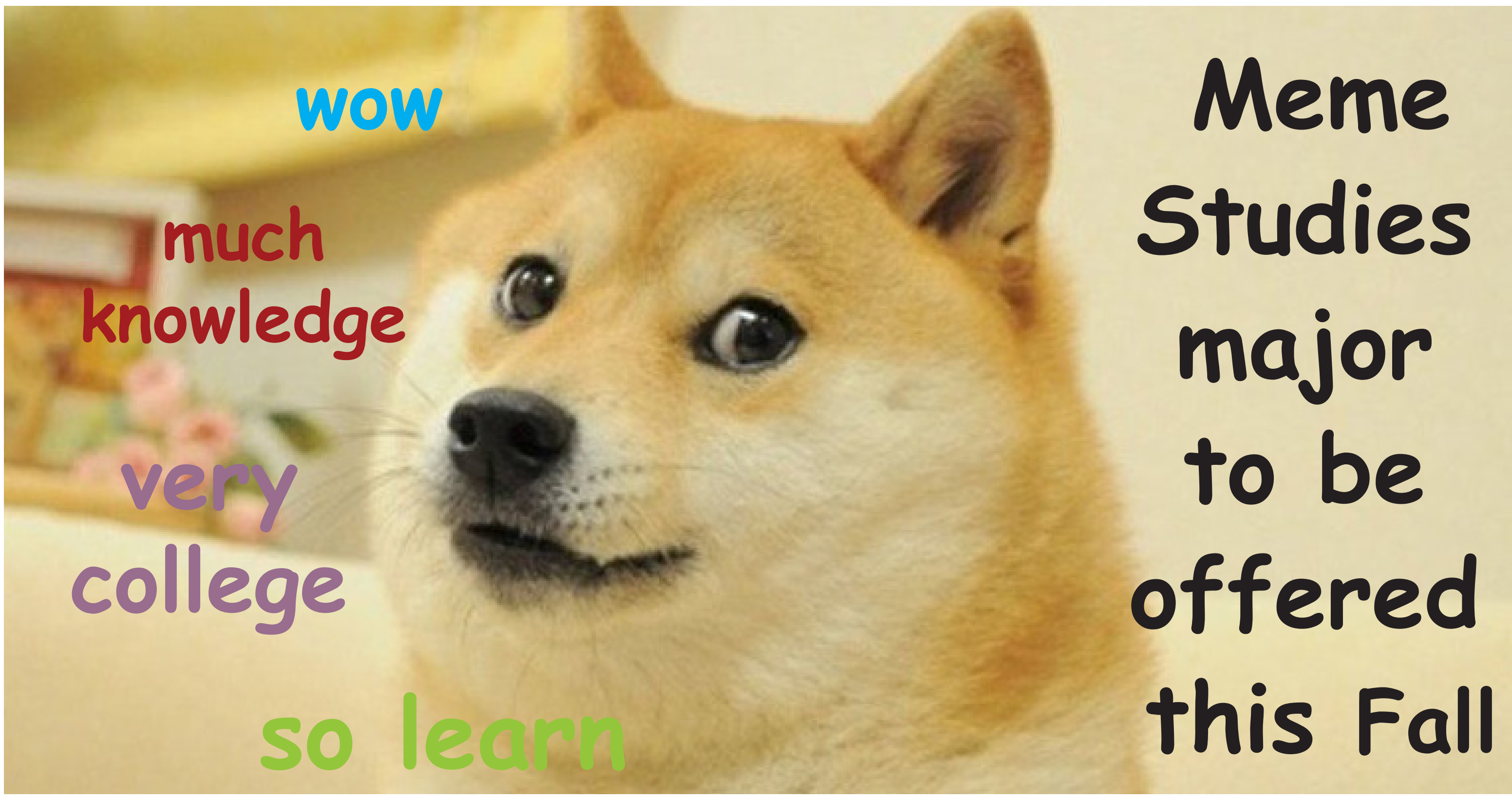
Bieber also explained that his entire discography will be played on rotation and in chronological order during all bus trips. He also stated that he has recorded special inspirational messages to be played throughout the rides.

"I have a ton of fun things planned for the bus ride soundtracks," Justin assures. "For example, when passengers get on the bus they're going to hear me say 'Are you ready for a Bieb-erific experience *Baby*?' while my song 'Baby' plays in the background. Get it? My favorite message I recorded is '*Never say never* to using the tiny bathroom in the back of the bus!' because whenever I use those everyone gives me dirty looks. You know, it's really important to me to get rid of the toxic, judgmental stigma surrounding bus bathroom use. They're one of the most important aspects of Bieber buses' efficiency. No bathroom stops equals faster travel time, and I've personally been training to hold my breath longer to withstand the smell."

Bieber's takeover of the transportation company has been enthusiastically endorsed by President John I. Williams Jr, a known fan and longtime friend of the singer.

"Justin Bieber is larger than life as both an icon of modern pop culture and as a talented musical artist," Williams said. "I feel so fortunate to have Justin as a friend, dating back to high school days, when Justin, my wife, Diane, and I were all classmates. It's truly wonderful to have Justin Bieber take over this company that has been integral Muhlenberg's students' lives for many years."

The new and improved Bieber buses will be available for students to get home for the upcoming Easter break as well as for the summer break. The updated design and promising economic reliability appear to make the reborn company a dependable choice for both students and commuters in the area.



Meme Studies major to be offered this Fall

By Sydney Coplin
News Editor

This past Friday, a faculty vote of 5000-0 led to unanimous approval for the implementation of a brand new major: a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Meme Studies, which will be added to the course catalog beginning Fall 2019.

The amount of support for the vote was unprecedented, with approval expanding far beyond the number of faculty actually at the meeting, and the school in general. There may or may not have been Russian interference in skewing this vote in support of the meme degree, though there is no suspected collusion by President Williams in this endeavor, despite his overt support for the major due to its "quintessential example of a liberal arts education in action."

Nevertheless, the major is set to be accepted as legitimate.

"The job market is becoming increasingly demanding of skills

see **Memes** page 3

We're pregnant!
Read inside

Jarrett Azar and Emily Drake/The Muhlenberg Weekly

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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We here at the Muhlenberg Weekly don't make mistakes. If anyone says we do then give me their address so I can give them a piece of my mind. And if we do make a mistake then it's your fault. Don't blame me, I've got kids to feed and I've got hearts to bleed. After all we are just a bunch of kids looking for our next fix. Look, in the modern day clicks are currency. You probably read Buzzfeed more than you feed your baby. We've got a quota to fill each and every day, Zuckerberg is breathing down our necks and if we miss the mark then you miss the Mark. It's all a bunch of hoo ha to me. If you don't like something we wrote, then you might as well email my butt because that's what I think about you.

ADVERTISING POLICY

No ads. Ads are the bane of the modern world. We spend hours staring at Geico ads but they might as well just say OBEY. Money is just paper, we just figured we'd give it value for the heck of it. And somehow those without money are not worthy in the eyes of society. Money runs this country and it's running it into the ground. That is why the Muhlenberg Weekly is officially announcing the establishment of a new sovereign nation, where cash is the fool and we are king. Our economy will run on nothing but Gold krugerrands we find in the the old haunted halls of Muhlenberg College. Join us if you dare, for what we lack in supplies we gain in power and love. Join now.

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CORRECTION POLICY

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

Thursday, March 21

Report of breaking and entering - 12:36 p.m.
A student, sick of wringing their hands dry, broke into The Courts and delivered paper towels to the bathroom. The student has been identified, spoken to, and referred to the Dean of Students.

Report of liberal elitism - 3:32 p.m.
There was a report of campus-wide spread of liberal elitism, extreme classism, and white privilege. The CDC says it is very contagious. Be sure to wash your hands!

Friday, March 22

Report of unwarranted anger- 5:52 p.m.
A capella singers in Mr. Burns masks apprehend Will Wamser, spit roasted him on Victor's Lament while chanting "Opinion! Opinion!" His body was cut up, fried, and served to students as "Mule fingers".

Saturday, March 23

Report of violation of candle policy - 12:17 p.m.
In the biggest bust of the century, campus safety and HRL entered a MILE house without permission while the students were out of town and uncovered an underground candle-making facility on campus. The students are being fined more than their tuition for possession and selling of over 500 unlit candles.

Report of disturbance - 5:00 p.m.
There was a report of a disturbance in the dining hall. A student refused to put her soup in a mug, single handedly causing a mass riot of over 2,000 people and drawing attention from Mug Makers groups on social media. The student has been placed in witness protection for violating 'Berg's social norms.

Sunday, March 24

Report of odor - 4:23 p.m.
There was a report of the smell of marijuana from a faculty member's office. Upon investigation, a professor was found smoking a bong to alleviate the nerves of grading and commenting on 100 20-page papers in the two days before midterm grades were due.

Report of damaged property - 5:18 p.m.
There was a report of damage done to a WEPA machine. Apparently it ran out of ink in the middle of printing a paper titled "FINAL PAPER DUE IN 5 MINUTES UUUGGGHHH," so a student smashed the printer with a baseball bat. Upon calling OIT to notify them of the incident via phone, student workers could be heard cheering in the background.

Report of exhaustion -11:59 p.m.
There was a report that all humans are terrible. The investigation will continue.

Report of Vandalism - 7:12 p.m.
Posters left around campus telling students to "Believe in yourself" and to "Have a nice day" were vandalized with the phrase "don't tell me what to do," written in red marker. There are no suspects at this time.

Report of exhaustion -11:59 p.m.
There was a report that all humans are terrible. The investigation will continue.

The Weekly Staff wishes everyone a safe and happy weekend!

Muhlenberg's
Commencement Luncheon
2019

to order:

Purchase your tickets by Friday, April 12th
to take advantage of the early discount!

Link also available on instagram.com/bergdining

Let slip the tweets of debt

By Melissa Reph
Washington Correspondent

It has been a little over a month since President John I. Williams was verified on Twitter and while expectations were not high, no one thought they could sink quite so low.

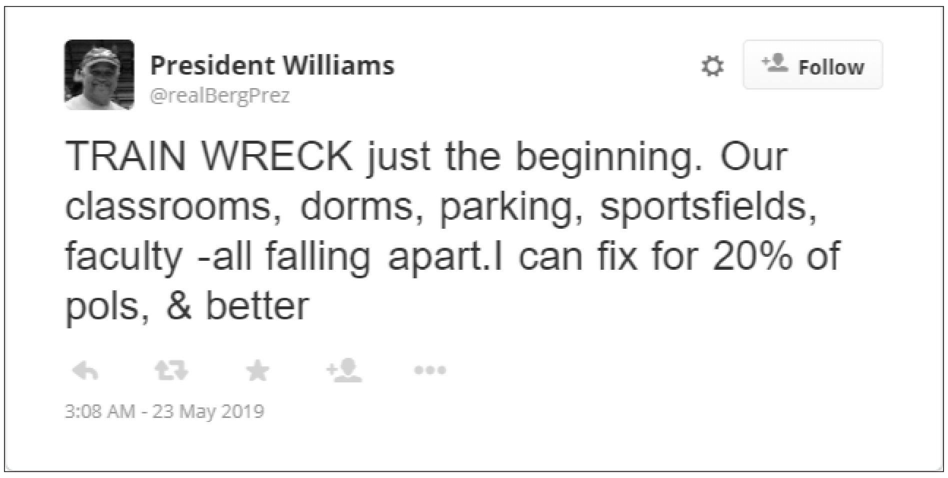
It began innocuous enough, with Williams tweeting out a promise to "Make Muhlenberg Great Again!" Possibly in reference to the College's campaign from the early 1900s known as "For a Greater Muhlenberg." This would fall in line with Williams' trend towards restarting Muhlenberg traditions and expanding Muhlenberg's prestige and reach.

However, the college president's tweets began seeming more and more erratic and nonsensical as the weeks continued. One from two weeks ago is quoted as saying, "I am very proud to have brought the subject student debt back into the discussion. Such a big problem for our college-I will solve."

Another, seemingly contradictory, tweet read: "TRAIN WRECK just the beginning. Our classrooms, dorms, parking, sportsfields, faculty - all falling apart.I can fix for 20% of pols, & better."

While just this past week he released the following, going back to his earlier message it would seem: "Just like I have been able to spend far less money than others on the campaign and finish #1, so too should our college. We can be great!"

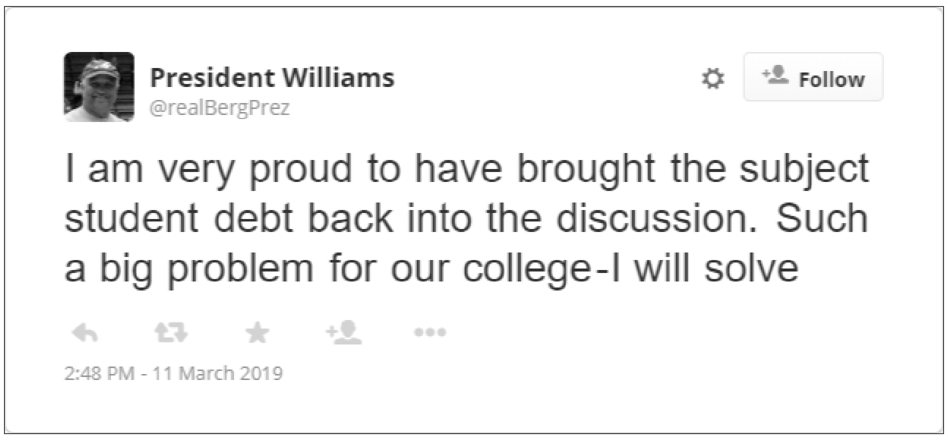
Student response to these messages seem to be one of overwhelming confusion. Zeke Timen '21 said "The updates, they're not always bad. Sometimes they're just odd."



President Williams
@realBergPrez

TRAIN WRECK just the beginning. Our classrooms, dorms, parking, sportsfields, faculty -all falling apart.I can fix for 20% of pols, & better

3:08 AM - 23 May 2019



President Williams
@realBergPrez

I am very proud to have brought the subject student debt back into the discussion. Such a big problem for our college-I will solve

2:48 PM - 11 March 2019

"I mean, when I found out that the master plan would be adding 14 new parking spots on campus I was thrilled. Then he tweeted this out yesterday." At this point Timen pulled up Williams' twitter account and a post that read "I have been drawing very big and enthusiastic crowds, but the media refuses to show or discuss them. Something very big is happening!"

"I get the 'Berg Bulletin, not that I read it, but I get the emails from his office too and I don't think he's said anything about hosting a lecture or talk in any format. Does he mean office hours?" Timen asked The Weekly to clarify the validity of Williams' claim that the media has been misreporting. Seeing as there have been no events with President Williams of late, we found no validity to this statement.

"I really don't get what this is supposed to be talking about," Ian Adler '20, said about one particular tweet.

It read: "It was great being in Muhlenberg. Remember, I am the only presidential candidate who will bring jobs back to the 'Berg and protect shovel industry!"

"It's not like the sidewalks actually get shovelled," Adler said. "The last time it snowed his driveway was the only thing that got cleared before it iced. Maybe that's what he means."

The College President's two most recent tweets prior to publication were "LOWERING THE DEBT!" and "Despite the constant negative covfefe." The Muhlenberg Weekly is unsure what the latter cryptic tweet might mean, it may have something to do with Williams being spotted with a cup of GQ coffee around the time of posting.

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from **Memes** page 3

in regards to meme literacy," explains Mark DeezNuts, Junior Director at the Muhlenberg College Career Center. "I believe that this major will provide interested students with a diverse range of knowledge of the entire meme cultural landscape that will really make them stand out on their resumes as well as maybe even get them verified on Twitter or something."

The B.S. in Meme Studies will take an interdisciplinary approach to the subject matter that will span across areas of history, language, science, and art. There will be several required foundational courses, elective opportunities, and a final Culminating Undergraduate Experience (CUE) requiring students to turn themselves into memes.

Students may also choose to intern for major networks of meme production, such as Tik Tok, Instagram, or even the grave site where Vine lays to rest.

"Even though I am a senior and should be graduating in a few weeks, I actually plan on staying at Muhlenberg for a few more years to switch my major over to Meme Studies," says Alex From-Target '19. "I am really looking forward to taking the It's Actually Easy Being Green course, since it focuses on my passions of environmental science but also Kermit the Frog."

Some of the other distinguished course options within the major that are expected to achieve popularity from students include: Fortnite Dances 101, The Rise and Fall of Pepe the Frog, and even an option to take foreign languages in either Stan Twitter or Doge (much fun, very knowledge).

The job market is becoming increasingly demanding of skills in regards to meme literacy.

The major will also have a short-term study abroad option, with a Muhlenberg Independent Learning Abroad (MILA) course that will allow students to study SpongeBob SquarePants memes in the beautiful, exotic, historical Bikini Bottom.

"I knew that this major was right for me because of the SpongeBob MILA course," notes Bari Benson '21. "I wanted to study abroad, but I was worried that I wouldn't be able to keep up with my favorite memes if I was going to some country that didn't have good wifi. Since I will be in Bikini Bottom, I can see all of my favorite memes in real life and not even need internet. I am especially excited to see the iconic Mr. Krabs shook meme."

gotta
blast!

Photo Courtesy of Office of Communications

President Williams takes one final ride on a Zagster bike.

Benson also describes her excitement for another course based on a character that actually shares the same name as her, but with a slightly different spelling: Barry B. Benson, from *Bee Movie*.

"I am really hype for the class called Ya Like Jazz?" says Benson. "Like, this class literally has nothing to do with actual jazz, but everything to do with *Bee Movie* memes, like memorizing the entire script, which I basically already have done but I want to perfect it."

One of the more unique courses that this major will offer is a cooking class called That's The Tea Sis. The course will focus on stirring all types of tea, including subtweeting, celebrity breakups and analysis of James Charles, all while experimenting with legitimate "good and fresh tea" courtesy of Teavana, according to Tide Podsworth, Adjunct Professor of Meme Studies.

"I'm thrilled to see this meme takeover that is about to overcome Berg's campus," says Podsworth, as she dabbed in front of a group of extremely uncomfortable students. "It's going to be lit."

Just suck it!

Muhlenberg improves sustainability with zero-waste straws

By Chloe Gravereaux
Editor-in-Chief

Muhlenberg College sustainability program introduced zero-waste straws that dissolve while you drink, which are good for the environment but problematic for students.

Wrestler Brad Hardpin '20 finds the new design inconvenient, as he needs 13 straws to finish his protein shake.

"I'll take one sip of my post-workout smoothie, and the straw will be gone," said Hardpin. "So I'll need to reach for another, and another and another."

If it was any other drink, said Hardpin, he wouldn't mind skipping the straw.

"There's no other way to drink smoothies," said Hardpin, "and I really need to drink those, since I'm trying not to gain or lose any more weight for the season."

"He just inhales the straw," said teammate Justin Singlet '21. "*With his smoothie*. I'm seriously concerned he's going to choke like one of those turtles."

Muhlenberg College sustainability introduced the straws as a way to phase out one-time use plastic, explained Johnny Strawman, Sodexo Manager of The Last Straw.

"The new straws are in such high demand that we had to special order more!" said Strawman. "They're much better than the paper straws we gave out last semester!"

When reminded of the high levels of greenhouse gases created at factories that make the straws and the CO2 released into the atmosphere to rush exclusive shipping, Strawman's face paled and he asked to go lie down for a bit.

While most agree that straws can be cut from the campus consuming, some students think removing straws altogether is a disastrous plan.

"Banning straws is incredibly abilist," said Vickey Motive '21, the leader of the "Just Suck it!" straw campaign and a newly declared sustainability major.

"I can't imagine how difficult it would be for someone to sit down with their Mule Macchiato Milkshake and realize, in horror, that they have to walk back to their dorm and get a straw," said Motive. "Or how inconvenient it is for those who need straws to drink."

"Even if you're just using a straw for fear of germs," said Motive, "you have to question how necessary it is. For an entire group of people, they can't make that choice. So we have to speak up for them!"

Roger Johnson '20, who is also a sustainability major, doesn't believe bureaucracy will solve the problem.

"When I found out that they were switching straws, I started carrying a reusable, silicon straw with me everywhere in my backpack, and went to the dollar store to get a pack of disposable straws," said Johnson. "Of course it's annoying. But it's also not the first time I've found myself without a straw."

Motive and five other students spent their Thursday afternoon on the steps of Haas, holding posters on recycled paper asking administration who walked by to "be more flexible" in straw policies or to "Just suck it!"

Three days later, a compromise was reached. Muhlenberg then, after raising tuition again, ordered and gave out a set of three metal straws and cleaning brushes to students, which Resident Assistants delivered to students dorms. Each product was engraved with "Just Suck it!" in honor of Motive's campaign.

"How the freak am I supposed to clean these?" Bailey Whitmaster '21 wailed. "Just in my dorm room sink or bathroom? Do you know how gross that is? Do you know how many drunk people have vomited or had coitus in that sink?"

"Could you imagine if food got stuck in them? How unsanitary," Whitmaster continued. "I don't have the time to wash these, let alone money for dish soap. I guess I'll just run them through my parents' dishwasher when I go home for break."

Grassy Greenall, sustainability professor, believes reducing straw waste is the first step in an ongoing project to make campus zero-waste by 2050.

"The campus has made great success with the Just Tap it! Campaign, and reducing food waste with Food Waste awareness day." said Greenall. "The next step is getting rid of all paper towels in bathrooms and replacing them with low-power hand dryers, replacing plastic bags in the Bookstore with compostable alternatives, banning the printing of paper syllabi, banning the selling of hard copy textbooks, banning the print copies of The Weekly, and banning all electricity ever. But the straws are a start."

Greenall believes that the #laststrawstruggle, as it has come to be hashtagged, is the best way to spread awareness.

"The best way to reduce waste is to make students think about how necessary that piece of plastic is," said Greenall. "And there's no better way to do that then to make it a nuisance."

Missed Connections

The Boy with the Blue Hat

To the boy with the blue hat that I talked to about Brooklyn-99 in GQ last Wednesday: I really had fun and would love to catch up on the new season with you. - The Cool Cool Cool Girl

Lark

To the enchanting young mademoiselle who passes me when I sit on the bench on academic row every Tuesday/Thursday: You always smile and wave whenever you pass and I'd love to get to know you better but I really don't want to be a bother. So I guess if you're reading this and want to grab coffee sometime just come join me on the bench. If not, I understand. - Painfully Dorky

Leeds Devil

I saw some glowing red eyes on top of the Denny's over in P-burg. So if you're who (or WHAT) I think I saw, cross the river and show yourself you coward. - Gonna Prove Them Wrong This Time

Forest Yeti

Looking for hairy man, must be above 6'5", must wear a size 27 shoe. I'll be behind Benfer every night from 2:00 - 5:00 a.m. - You Know Who

Oblivious Idiot

To the stupid, hopeless, wonderful boy who has yet to notice I'm in love with him: There. I said it. I love you. I get that you're hardcore crushing on her and I'm too good of a friend to quit being your wingwoman but dammit it hurts. I saw that you were placing an ad in here and well, you're an idiot but I love you anyways so it's not like you'll realize this is me. She's in my intro to American gov class with me, I'll give her your number. - Never Mine to Lose

The Amy to My Jake

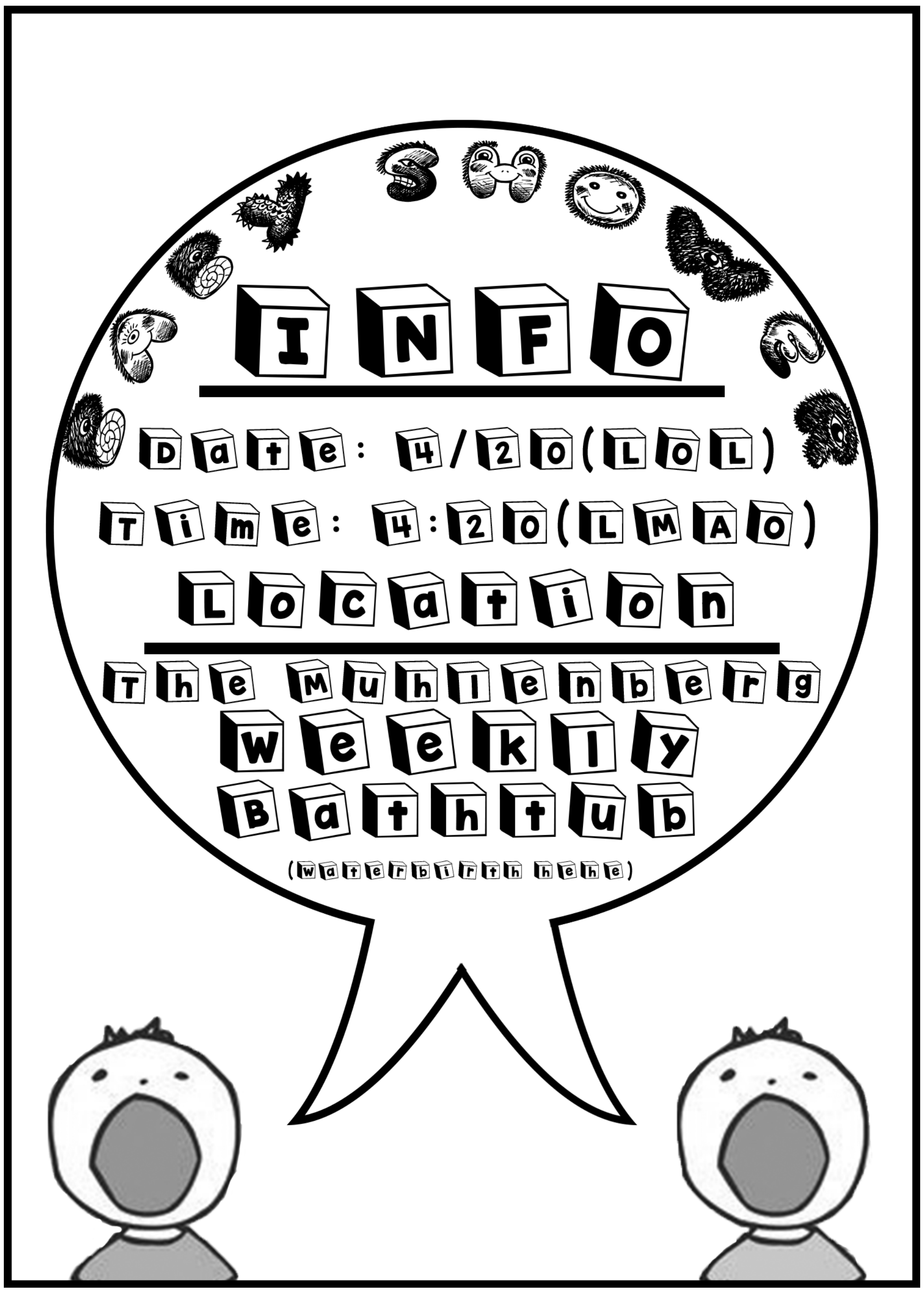
So I noticed your 99 stickers on your laptop in GQ on Wednesday and we were talking and I invited you to watch the new season but never got your name or anything. I've tried social media and asking friends and this is my last resort. So, if you read this I'll be at that table wearing my baseball cap again every night from 9:00 - 11:00 p.m. - Peralta

Flatwoods Monster?

So I saw some thing the other night on backademic row and I don't know what exactly it was. There was this like red light? And then this weird hooded figure like an ace of spades. I went to google and I think it might've been the Flatwoods Monster. I'm not sure though? So if anyone else saw something like it on Monday then hit me up. I left my contact info here at The Weekly office, just come by and they'll hook us up. - Close Encounter?

Boy on the Bench

You're always on the same bench in front of Haas when I'm walking to class on Tuesdays and Thursdays and you wave back at me every time I pass. It's so sweet! You're friends with a girl in my American Gov class but I don't want to bother her about talking to you. So I'm going to leave this up to fate a bit, if you read this I'll be in a practice room in the CA all afternoon Friday so feel free to stop by so we can meet properly. - A Heart Full of Love



THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY
/ARTS & CULTURE

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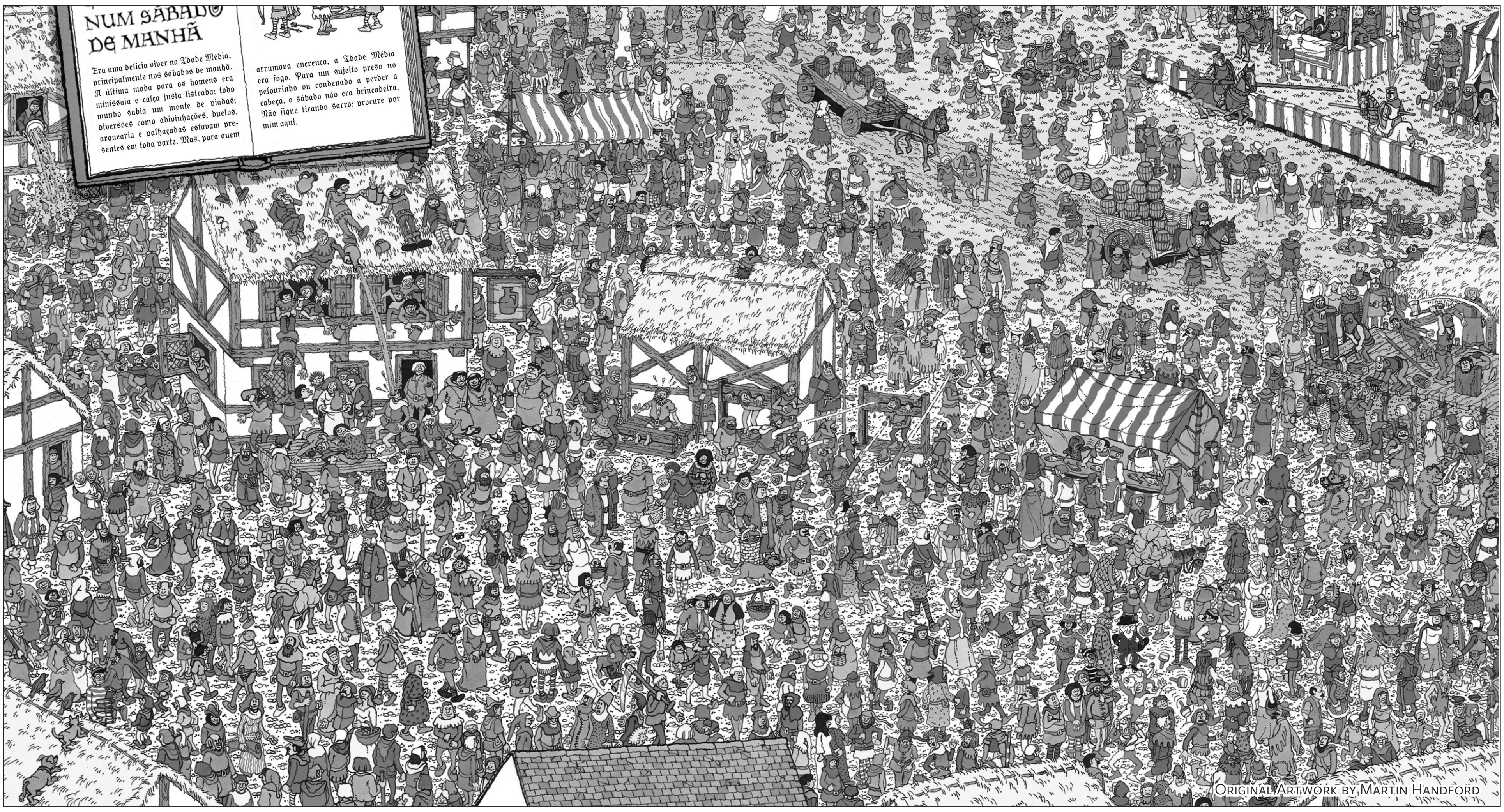
Where's Rabbi?


NUM SÁBADO DE MANHÃ
Era uma delícia viver na Idade Média, principalmente nos sábados de manhã. A última moda para os homens era minissaia e calça justa listrada; todo mundo sabia um monte de piadas; diversões como adivinhações, duelos, arquearia e palhaçadas estavam presentes em toda parte. Mas, para quem arrumava encrenca, a Idade Média era fogo. Para um sujeito preso no pelourinho ou condenado a perder a cabeça, o sábado não era brincadeira. Não fique tirando sarro; procure por mim aqui.

Original Artwork by Martin Handford

(Yes, he's really in here!)

By Arielle Moss
Arts & Culture Asst. Editor

I am a Jew — hath not a Jew need a rabbi? Not just a random rabbi, but a rabbi who I know will always be there for me — one who is so dependable that I can leave Hillel after Friday Shabbat dinner feeling secure that I will see the same rabbi next week.

However, this has not been my experience during my three years of college, as there has been a different rabbi at Hillel each year I have attended Muhlenberg College. And no, this is not just my imagination playing tricks on me. And I am not the only Junior (or Jewnior, if you will), who has noticed our rabbis being replaced with a different one every August; this is a concern of all the Muhlenjews.

As a Jewnior, I began my freshmen year with Rabbi Melissa, who was here the longest out of our two most recent rabbis, who have each only rabbied at our Hillel for one year each, while Rabbi Melissa disappeared after multiple years at Muhlenberg. Yes, supposedly my sophomore year and second rabbi, Rabbi Dan, was an interim rabbi, so his disappearance makes a lot of sense, right? Well, that might not have been necessarily the case.

In fact, Rabbi Dan kept disappearing throughout the school year. Where was he on Rosh Hashanah? Why was he not here for many Shabbats? Honestly, it sometimes felt like Passover, being that if Rabbi was at Hillel every holiday, without being noticed, he was clearly disguised as Elijah.

Some students claimed that Rabbi Dan lived far away or that he was spending time with his family. However, I believe the reasonings for Rabbi Dan's semi-regular absences are more complicated than the believed speculations. Maybe he disguised himself as a student. Perhaps, he cheated on us with another Hillel.

After the announcement of our new rabbi, I was skeptical that this was going to be the one. I had a theory that he would leave after one school year, just like the others, and that the class of 2020 would go through all four of their years at Muhlenberg College with a different rabbi.

I would like to point out that Muhlenberg's Hillel was not always this way. Students used to have a steady rabbi. My own sister spent her entire four years at Muhlenberg with only one rabbi and she is only three years older than me.

August 2018, we met what was supposed be our Hillel's steady rabbi; Rabbi Rachmiel was not supposed to be temporary. We all loved him, we still do, I thought that I might have been wrong and that he would be my senior year rabbi. Sadly, this is not going to be the case. Rabbi Rachmiel announced in an email, earlier this year, that he would leave Muhlenberg after this school year. Yes, it seems like our current rabbi will be leaving willingly, but what if Rabbi Rachmiel did not write that email? What if he is not aware that students think that he will not be returning to campus next August?

I believe that there is some immortal being out there who is the cause for all of the disappearances of Muhlenberg's rabbis. Perhaps, the immortal being writes emails announcing that the current rabbi will be leaving in order for us to begin the search party for a new rabbi — or the immortal being's next victim.

With the welcoming of the class of 2020, August 2016, it seems that they brought a curse to Muhlenberg Hillel. Rabbi Melissa was doomed. It is the only explanation. The class of 2019 experienced a steady rabbi for half of their time at Muhlenberg. Why couldn't the future classes have this same experience? So far, I have no way of confidently answering the reasons for the yearly disappearances of our rabbis. When will this disappearing streak end?

I needed to find out what is in the future for Muhlenberg College's Hillel. So I time-travelled to 2026 to speak to future students of Muhlenberg.

“It is strange—I am a senior and there is a new rabbi each semester,” said Samuel Futuremen ′26. “In fact, I don't think anyone remembers the last time there was a rabbi at ‘berg for longer than a semester. It's weird.”

I agree with Futuremen, it is weird. Clearly it becomes more bizarre as the interval between rabbis narrows, from getting an new rabbi yearly to welcoming a different rabbi every semester.

My advice for all of the Muhlenberg students and not just the Muhlenjews is to make sure we protect our future rabbi; do not keep your eyes off of our future rabbi; show love to our rabbi. Maybe if we all come together, the immortal rabbi stealing being will leave our rabbis and Hillel alone. We can change the future. Spread the word with #wheresmyrabbi and together we can make a difference.

‘Berg’s 2019 Relay for Life:

Transcript of the play-by-play for those who missed it

By Ethan Forrer
Staff Writer

Keith: Hello Muhlenberg annnnd welcome to this year’s Relay For Life. As always, I’m your host, Keith, and with me today is Mr. Madden himself. Hey John, how are you today?

John: I’m doing amazing Keith, and I’m sure you know why. This year’s Relay is shaping up to be one for the record books. I can’t wait to see what these teams are bringing to the table tonight.

Keith: Very good John. While we’re still waiting for everyone to set up, I’ll start introducing our teams, and let me tell you: we got it all folks. We have The Bio Club setting up next to teams Knitwits and Flourpower. On the other side of the track we have a collection of Greek Life and sport teams: we’ve got APO, ZBT — and what’s this it looks like the Track and Field team is staring daggers over at ZBT. Oh no, we have a repeat fundraising theme on the court—I repeat, it looks like ZBT and the Track and Field team have both brought jars full of candy as their fundraising plan.

John: That’s a critical blow to both teams, John — but if they play this right — not a fatal one.

Keith: Very true indeed. And it looks like the teams are just about ready to get started. Team Volleyball has already set up their table and are now shooting hoops, whereas the Basketball team seems to be practicing their serves — truly cross-cultural engagement if I’ve ever seen it.

John: Speaking of teamwork, as the first racers are starting to line up at the field it seems like Knitwits are handing out headbands and Flourpower is offering free sugary treats to the other competitors.

Keith: Truly warms the heart, John. It looks like we actually have some overlap in terms of membership between those teams, not sure how this will affect the scoring but there’s nothing in the rules against it… although, I guess there really isn’t that many rules in the first place.

John: Speaking of rules, here comes the ref. now.

Keith: The ref. is now gesturing as to how low the jerseys are allowed to hang below the armpit. Now this is a house rule not an official Relay restriction. And with that out of the way it looks like we’re finally ready to get started. Racers are getting set at the starting line annnnnd they’re off! The sports teams are making an early lead and yes! It’s the basketball team pulling ahead. The Bio Club team appears to have gone back to their table and sat down instead of running. But what’s this — the volleyball team has just passed a basketball to the Basketball team’s runner. And oh no, the runner instinctually starts to dribble the ball before realizing that there is no one to pass to. The basketball team is clearly not happy about this and the runner is starting to fall behind as they are forced to keep dribbling or lose possession of the ball for traveling.

John: A tired and true volleyball technique, Keith. The fault lies on the Basketball team for not expecting this when the Volleyball team started shooting hoops.

Keith: Quite right John. Things are really getting started as the runners start completing their first lap. But what’s this, it seems like the Track and Field team has set up several hurdles along the track.

John: Ingenious.

Keith: Sure enough, the Track and Field runner is making short work of these hurdles whereas the other runners are dropping one after the other, unable to make the jump over the hurdle. But it looks like there’s another development underway. ATO has finally brought in the pledges and the team is sending them in one by one to clear away the hurdles by attempting to jump over them. It looks like Alphi Chi is taking a cue from their brothers and sending in pledges of their own. How are the other teams going to deal with this problem without the necessary disposable pledges? And I don’t believe what I’m seeing, John — ZBT and DTD have put their heads together and came up with a strategy that redefines the game: they are actually jogging around the hurdles.

John: This is the stuff they don’t teach you in class Keith, clearly a league of its own.

Keith: That’s not all folks. It looks like the hazing behavior demonstrated here may have attracted the wrath of Campus Safety as they make their way down to the track. Campo is approaching the starting line now — it looks like that might be all for ATO and Alpha Chi’s shot at glory. But what’s this? A Campus Safety officer has started running down the track. Is she on the chase — no! Campus Safety has officially entered the race, let’s see if she can make up for lost time folks. Meanwhile, Biology Club has now brought out a board game and started playing it.

John: They say a war must first be won in the mind, Keith.

Keith: I don’t get it but that sounds impressive John. *Oh my. Both of the FuZion and Perkulator team’s runners have made their way to the front of the growing crowd so they can show off their popping and locking skills. With the front runners stylishly distracted it looks like Campo might be trying something equally stylish to make up for their delayed start. Yes, they do appear to be calling in the cavalry as we speak, and by cavalry I of course mean that the Campus Safety bicycle is now on the track. The runner is now on the bike and speeding through the rest of the runners. Let’s see what the ref. has to say about it. But the referee appears to have sat down and started to play board games with the Bio club team!

John: It’s been an age-old question: why even have a ref for this mess of a competition?

Keith: Very true, John, why indeed? Now the question on everyone’s mind is: what’s next? And it looks like MCEMS, which has been relatively quiet so far, seems to be making their move. The runner is taking out her radio and has stopped in her tracks. What could MCEMS be up to — by god! The MCEMS truck has just broken through the outside facing emergency exit doors and onto the track.

John: An EMS organization prides itself on its rapid response time.

Keith: And the truck has pulled up to the MCEMS runner and it looks like she is actually getting into the trunk of the truck, yes, getting inside the trunk. And boy are they certainly making an impact. Contestants are diving out of the way left and right to avoid getting hit as the truck drifts around each corner.

John: I’m just going to cut in here, if you take a look to the right side you can see what appears to be a drunk freshman swaying around. My years of experience tell me he is a traditional counter to just this situation.

Keith: We’ll have to see how this plays out. Doesn’t seem like the Campus Safety team is going to take this sitting down. She’s gotten out her radio as well — and sure enough here comes a Campo cruiser busting another hole through the emergency exit doors right next to the hole MCEMS made. With two cars on the track this is turning into a real drag race folks. They’re neck and neck, bumping into each other as they crash through tables and narrowly avoid hitting the other competitors.

John: It warms my heart to see this Relay finally underway. But look to the right again — we’re about to see something spectacular.

Keith: By Jove, the drunk freshman is on the move. He’s stumbling around; he’s heading forward; and — and — and he has stubbed his toe! And he’s down folks! I haven’t seen anything drop like that since this year’s freshman enrollment rate. He’s making a call. Annnnd sure enough — Campo and MCEMS have just turned their lights and sirens on and they’re making their way over to the fallen freshman.

John: This play is unfortunately going to take them out of the race. There is no way to get out of this in under at least a few hours.

Keith: So with all the completion taken care of, the Knitwits and Flourpower runner is casually approaching the finish line. It’s a beautiful site to see John — truly reminds you of what Relay is all about. Annnnd that’s it folks, she has crossed the finish line — and the crowd goes wild! Let’s take a look at the scoreboard to see how our teams placed. Well yankee doodle dandy! Biology club has come in first! In fact they’re the only ones on the board folks! It looks like amongst all this chaos they were the only team to keep tabling and actually get some donations during the event.

John: Even after 19 years of shout-casting this event Keith, it always surprises me that Relay For Life isn’t actually about running around a track but actually collecting donations for those in need.

Keith: It gets me, too, John. At least for those few readers who bothered to make it all this way can learn something about the Relay For Life event from all this wacky races shenanigans.

John: indubitably.

--End of transcription.

Enough is enough: ‘Berg addresses unkempt campus

By Lauren D. Mazur
Arts & Culture Editor

“I just…don’t have time. With work, and classes, and club activities, cleaning my room honestly seems to be the least important thing on my to do list.” Molly Malone ‘21 was only one of many Muhlenberg students with this mindset. With all the work we are given as college students, it almost seems impossible to even consider wasting time on folding clothes, much less place them securely in a drawer or closet. For some students, the only times they see their floor are move-in and move-out days.

“Dorms are not permanent — we’re not in the same place for more than a year and it seems pointless to even try and keep it clean.”

“Honestly, I just don’t see a reason to care,” Malone reflects, “dorms are not permanent — we’re not in the same place for more than a year and it seems pointless to even try and keep it clean. Especially with what little space we’re given in the first place.”

Marie Kondo begs to differ.

The star from the Netflix series “Tidying Up with Marie Kondo,” Kondo specializes in teaching those who wish to learn the value of truly loving your things. Throughout the series, Kondo visits various homes across the country to share different tricks and tools to begin creating a clean and tidy home. Due to recent complaints, Muhlenberg invited Kondo to bring her show to the red doors — hoping she’ll demonstrate to at least some students the value of preserving a clean space throughout your academic life.

“Your space is important,”

see **Kondo** page 7

Aca-fiend to aca-friend

By Will Wamser
Op/Ed Editor

Will Wamser has become infamous for his opinions of a cappella on the Muhlenberg campus. This made it more surprising when he announced that he had made a barbershop quartet of his own, I was able to sit down with the group after their first show. When asked about the inception of the group Will Wamser was quoted saying, “I’ve finally found a family to call mine.” The group is named “Quartetonix” as a nod to a cult group that you have to check out named the Pentatonix. The group is made up Will Wamser as the founder. Then there is Bill Bamser, it is Wamser’s former adversary turned friend who brings in the bass. Joining them is Red Herring, sick of being falsely accused of Fred Jones, Red Herring decided to use that anger to make art. And finally filling out the roster is Michael Jackson, the dethroned King of Pop is the resident beatboxer. On the need for another a cappella group, Bamser had to say that “as individuals we don’t have much to give society, but together maybe we can make a difference.”

They sing in the style of barbershop quartet, singing mostly mid-2000s bops. As of right now they sing a total of 8 songs. “Each of got to choose two of our favorite songs, we like to work together” claims Herring. Their most popular song is Ben E. King’s “Stand By Me”

Jarrett Azar / The Muhlenberg Weekly

From left to right: Michael Jackson, Bill Bamser, Will Wamser, and Red Herring.

Their first show was at 11:15 on March 23rd in the Event Space. There was little to no audience, but this did not dampen their spirits. “Quartetonix” still gave they show everything they had and the small audience seemed to enjoy it. The show was an hour long with a 15 minute intermission, during which the group appeared to have made a trip to Wawa. Bamser had to say “It’s not about who sees us, as long as we are having fun,” but Wamser seemed to disagree. Wamser blamed the lack of audience on the MIA show going on in the Red Door the same night, with a devious smile he told me “don’t worry, I’m already working on an article to destroy all improv for MIA’s indisgression against me.”

When the discussion turned to the future there seemed to be a shift in attitude. Prior to this moment the energy was laid back and casual, but after there was a tension in the air. Jackson loudly declared “There will be no new members” and the rest of the group solemnly nodded in agreement. When asked about it, Herring said “new members bring new ideas and that’s something that we as an a cappella group are just not interested in.” Their next show will be tonight in the Red Door where they plan to sing all their hits and debeau no new song it is, as Wamser put it, “for the fans.”

Artist of the Week: Claude Monet

By Ellen Powers
Staff Writer

The Muhlenberg community is home to a plethora of artists from all different majors. From all of the different mediums in the Studio Art major, to Theatre, to Music, to Dance, there are many talented students bringing their excellent creative work to Muhlenberg. With this Artist of the Week section, an artist is being featured to highlight their work, and there are many to choose from. This week, the Muhlenberg Weekly is featuring Claude Monet.

Monet was a French painter who was the leading founder of the French Impressionist style of painting. This style was groundbreaking when Monet introduced it to the world, and it inspired an entire movement in this new style. His work became particularly appreciated after his death, when his various paintings started to be spread worldwide as a part of all different museum exhibitions. Although he was known in his later life, the level of outreach that his work has had has cemented Monet as one of the world’s most famous painters.

One of Monet’s most famous works is his series of works, *Water Lilies*. There are various works of these lilies that Monet painted, including different angles and locations in the same garden in Giverny. Some of these water lily paintings are currently in the Musée d’Orsay and the Orangerie Museum, both in Paris. In the later part of his career, Monet frequently used this idea of series, painting the same location multiple times with different lightings or angles. Some examples of this in other works include Monet’s paintings of haystacks, which he painted in 1890 and 1891, as well as the Rouen cathedral, which he painted in 1894.

Monet began dabbling in art when he was growing up on the Normandy coast, near Le Havre. He first got some success with his selling of caricatures at the age of 15. He also drew pencil sketches of nearby sailing ships. At the suggestion of his aunt, who was an amateur painter herself, Monet began to study drawing, and eventually turned to painting, which he then led to his now-famous career of 60 years.

Although Monet’s works are more permanently in Paris, they have appeared throughout the world in various museums, including the Philadelphia Art Museum and the Museum of Modern Art, as well as many other museums worldwide.

Interestingly, Monet’s early career was not in the Impressionist style. He was inspired by other French painters and even Japanese paintings. He eventually started using a new method of brushstrokes that were more fragmented than what was usually used at the time. This style of brushstrokes that Monet invented were a trademark of the Impressionist style, but the movement was also largely based on the subject matter of the paintings as well. Impressionism on the whole featured the subject of middle-class life. In this regard, Monet painted several works of domestic scenes including his wife, son, and garden. However, Monet mostly painted nature scenes, implementing his perspective on the natural world. As he began experimenting in moving away from realistic paintings of people and landscapes, the Impressionism style came into being. Instead of realism, Monet painted a “relaxed, momentary vision” of the world around him.

Claude Monet’s experimentation in art led him to create an entirely new movement in the field. For this reason, his name is forever linked to the movement of Impressionism, having served as its creator and advocate. Monet’s work is known worldwide for its unique style, and his legacy will continue to be displayed as his works continue to be on exhibition both in his home nation of France and across the world.

from **Kondo** page 6

Kondo explained, “not just a place to sleep and eat, and study, but to *live*. I hope visiting this campus will at least encourage some shift in at least the mindset of the school.”

Kondo’s first stop, was the *favorite* of all the Freshman dorms, Prosser Hall.

As an RA, Malone joined Kondo, along with the camera crew, to further supervise and assist the student in question.

Due to embarassment, the students did not want their names revealed. For the case of this article, they shall be named, X and Y.

At entering the dorm room, Kondo was greeted with a pile of miscellaneous items. From clothes, to textbooks, to pieces of what once was food but now just green fuzz balls, the room was honestly *monstrous*.

“It was *really* bad,” Malone scrunched her nose at the memory, “it was like entering another world...I think we might have discovered another species...those green puffballs were moving.”

Johannah Wai / The Muhlenberg Weekly

A horrifying preview into the average student’s dorm.

Despite this, Kondo gave a smile to X and Y and began giving them general advice regarding the state of the room. One of the big subjects discussed, was *value*.

“Your things are your memories,” Kondo explained, “moments in your life with people that you love. It’s up to you to decide what to keep and what to give away.”

The two freshman were besides themselves.

“There was a lot of unnecessary emotion. I mean,” X laments, “it’s just stuff. I guess my textbooks mean something.”

“But in the end I just didn’t really get it.” Said Y, “but it was really cool to meet her!”

But Kondo did not give up. She preceded to show the students ways to fold and organize their things.

“By the end of it, the room looked *livable*. It was... honestly disconcerting.”

Kondo left campus with the piece of mind that at least one room was left somewhat clean.

“I’ll probably stick to households from now on though,” Kondo said, “but it was an experience here at Muhlenberg to say the least.”

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

Editorial

Conspiracy theories don't actually exist – a conspiracy theory

All you conspiracy theorists out there, I'm talking to you.

You may think that this is just a broad warning out to the public, but I'm really talking to you. Yes. Just you. If you think it's you, it probably is. You know who you are.

As you know, Editorials here at The Weekly are only on the most serious of serious matters (as a matter of fact, everything in every Opinions section EVER by the Weekly has always been serious, no jokes or humor at all). Our research is made up of investigative reporting that delves so deep into the internet that sometimes we have to pull sources from the second page of Google- but this Editorial.

This Psychologist that we found in the deepest, darkest parts of the web are a secret group of elite, prize-winning scientists and psychologists with more than one lone discovery to their name discovered shattering evidence that will rock the conspiracy theory fandom forever!

It's scarier than Slenderman. More horrific than Clinton's pizza ring. Sicker than the anti-vaxxer community. More far-reaching than the Illuminati.

We've discovered something so shocking about conspiracy theories that it will change the way you think of conspiracy theories forever! This is the conspiracy theory to end all conspiracy theories.

Mainly, that conspiracy theories don't exist.

That's right. They're not real.

Sounds like a conspiracy? It's not.

Scientific research confirmed and replicated in numerous labs across the world that has been tested openly (but also in secret!) by many have found that conspiracy theories to be nothing more than coping mechanism for when the brain is confronted with a real scenario that doesn't fit with already existing perceptions of reality. In other words, conspiracy theories are delusions created by people who don't want to believe they truly live in that kind of world where tragedy is unpreventable, where there isn't a single enemy that causes all your problems or consideres you such a powerful threat that it has to destroy you. Mainly, conspiracy theories exist to give people a sense of security, or self-import or self-righteousness.

Think about it. All conspiracy theories are based on the idea that another individual or group, generally one with power, is out to harm another, or a larger power is out to "tame" another. I don't have to list them. You all just *know* them. They are as common as cameras on the Truman show.

What they all have in common is a denial of power, of helplessness, of enslavement to a larger whole's beliefs. A blaming on an identifiable other an unidentifiable fear or problem.

But no one in the conspiracy theory group believes these many, non-secret scientists! Those who devoted their lives to conspiracy theories and who don't want to believe that their entire world is a farce have no reason to believe in conspiracy theories, yet they do! But we all know better. They can't hide anything.

We see through your conspiracies. And we won't fall for them!

OP/ED POLICIES

APRIL FOOL'S!
There are no rules!

Is this purge stuff for real?

Jarrett Azar / The Muhlenberg Weekly

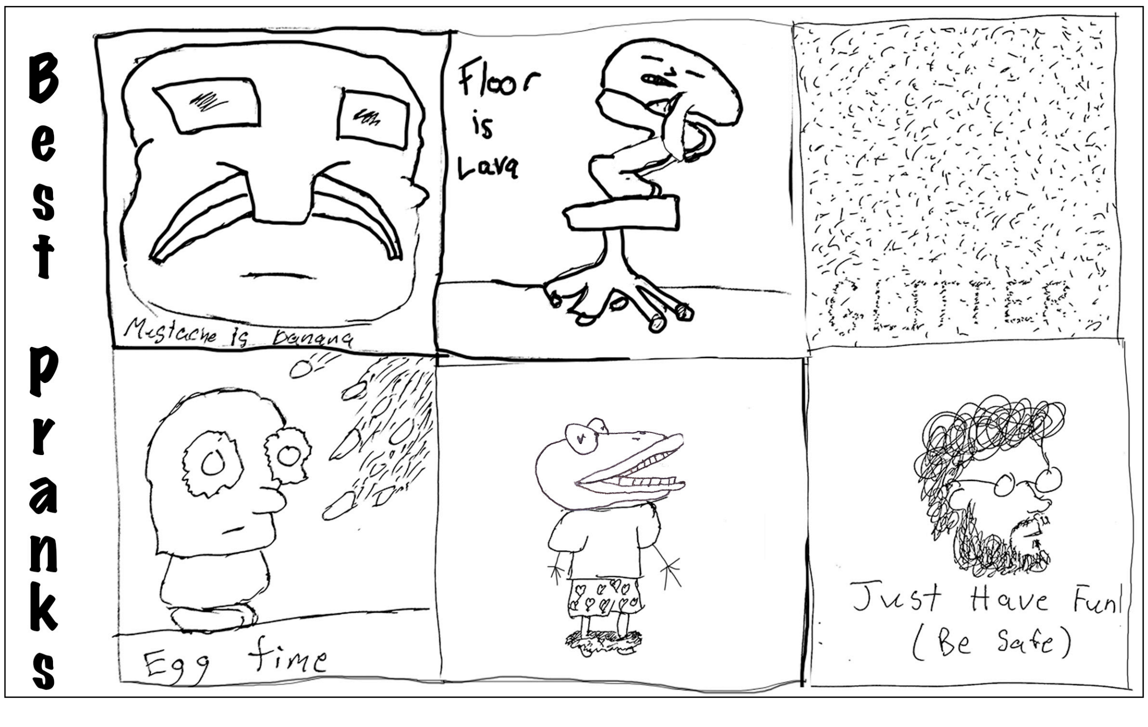
By Will Wamser
Thought Police

Like, there's no way. Right? This purge stuff can't be for real, there's like no chance. I don't even know why I'm asking. Like, it's crazy. I mean, a whole freaking day to commit all the crimes, that can't be legal (well actually in Trump's America pretty much anything can be legal, it's honestly so messed up some of the stuff this dude's been doing. The tweeting, cut it out man). So, if you don't know, which it's like how do you not know this might happen every single year do you live under a rock? But if you don't know, during the purge all crime is legal and I guess all not crime is illegal. That kind of sucks because like 9 out of 10 things I do isn't a crime but I might get arrested on purge, how is that fair? The whole thing is so we can purge out all the crime we want so the rest of the time we don't want crime, makes sense.

So like, my boys keep telling me to check out this purge things and I'm like dudes get off my back I'm going through a lot right now and they keep egging me to get in on this purge stuff because they think it's pretty cool. I checked it out, I checked it out hard and if that is their idea of cool then they are no boys of mine. You all know me, I'm a sick dude I don't shake easy, but this stuff's giving my boots a run for their money. I don't get scared but this stuff actually starts to freak me out, people are actually hurting and maybe even killing each other. Plus they won't tell me what day the purge is actually on so what am I to do? It's pretty bad too because they wear masks of some of the dopest people, like Ronald Rayman (the president to love jelly beans the most) or a freaking smile or one that even says "God." If that don't freak you out then I'm sorry but I don't want to meet you and we can't be roommates anymore.

But like, is it all crimes? I know the bad ones are in, like murder or hate, but what about the ok ones? If I litter are people still gonna be mad or is it a whole purge thing? Or if I want to go to my third grade teacher, Dr. Kelpnerorff, and egg their house to smithereens are the cops gonna scare me again or are we gucci? So like, theft and anger are crimes that make sense for me to purge out, but I don't got to purge out jaywalking. Jaywalking is what makes me me, just ask my mom may she rest in peace. That's a whole other can of worms, I've been looking for my mama's murder but if that happened on the purge and I don't know it then what am I supposed to do? Live with my ex-brother-in-law Peeper? Just because of this so-called purge? No way!

I see this junk and I can't believe it's happening. There is no way. Wouldn't I have actually heard about it before this? But then again I just found out about Saint Patrick's day. I actually do know if it's real or not, don't get me wrong but I just want to see if you know. Only weenies don't know if this purge stuff is for real or not and I got a hunch that you are a weenie. And it doesn't even matter because I'm joking. I know that the purge is probably whatever you said it was, what did you say? It's a prank!! Jamie Kenedy always say prank 'em while they're down so yah pranked. I don't even care if the purge is real because I'd just kick @$$. It doesn't even matter, the purge is almost definitely probably not real, right?



Muhlenberg College: a model of utopian society

By Matt Riebesell
Managing Editor

With all this joking around I thought I would stop by to tell you all some of the best things about Muhlenberg. They shouldn't be a surprise, but it's nice to acknowledge them every now and then.

First, we are all smart. There are stats to back this up. The Princeton Review says our acceptance rate is 62% and the average GPA of incoming high schoolers is a 3.34. That's pretty cool. And I'm not sure, but I don't even think any of us here had to pull some "famous parents making us look smart" scandal to get in! We are actually the real version of smart. And when people ask us what a Muhlenberg is, we know deep down since we do know where the Muhlenberg is, and that all of its doors are bright red (even though our school color is pantone 201) that we can walk away from the conversation with a slight grin on our face - knowing that we are smarter than the other person because we know what a Muhlenberg is.

We are really kind. This is the most obvious one. Literally on the application Admissions asks how important door holding is on a scale of 1-1,000. Any answer below 999 is considered an automatic rejection. Well, maybe not literally. But isn't that kind of what it feels like? We are all pretty much so nice that even when we disagree with others we say super nice things to them instead of calling them the appropriate terms that we are really thinking. My example should ring a bell. Remember when that kid who writes for the paper said he didn't like a capella? I remember one person commenting on social media saying they wanted to cut his arms off to… oh wait… I am hearing now the arm cutting was not to give people high fives. Well. Nevermind. I am sure there were good intentions.

It's also a shame the CA is gonna crumble to the ground. It probably won't be that hard though. I see cracks in those windows all the time from birds crashing into the building. Anyways, the reason I bring the CA up is because of the brave and persistent students who perform in the its theatres and performance spaces. Specifically, they were willing to dedicate three whole years to a single series of plays. Even after the first one was considered to be quite a bummer! They take challenges in stride and do their best because (I hate to use an overused cliche) the show must continue!

Also, we never get in trouble! Except sometimes. And those times aren't even getting in trouble. It's just that we are kind of having way too much fun, and then old grouchy neighbors who CHOSE to live next to college kids complain cuz they are jealous that they weren't invited to the Friday and Saturday night fun-fests. I still don't understand why Campus Safety and the APD can't just back off and let us have fun. I guess instead of saying we never get in trouble, we just know how to have fun.

So yea, we are all of these great things. Don't question it for a second. Even on a bad day when your arm isn't actually sore from holding doors open for 17 families on a tour. Or when your professor takes off a couple points here or there for spelling the main character's name wrong in the book you are analyzing in that paper. This is your reminder that we ARE the best.

Why The Muhlenberg Weekly had to let Will Wamser go…

'Berg student anno
for mayor of All
Meet Will Wamser – the sophomore determined to end the legacy of corruption left behind by the disgraced Ed Pawlowski
Read more on 3
President pressured to lower tuition cost
TUITION
$10,000*
Pirates change their tune

Jarrett Azar / The Muhlenberg Weekly

By Jarrett Azar
The Queen

Disclaimer: This IS the opinion of The Muhlenberg Weekly

Will Wamser, Will Wamser, Will Wamser… Where do I begin? Let me start by saying that Will Wamser sucks. If you don't know him by name, which you shouldn't, he ran for mayor this time last year. At that time, The Weekly endorsed and supported him. Nowadays, not so much. He WAS the Op/Ed section editor, and even though some say he might still be, but I don't think he should be anymore. He's also a future math? teacher? (maybe?) Anyways, he sucks. And I am here to tell you why. There are too many reasons to fit into one measly article, so I will just be covering the top 5. First, and least important (you know I gotta build the suspense playa), is that dumb, yet insightful, article he wrote about a capella a few weeks back. I mean, what was he thinking? Big dumb, one of the bigger dumbs I've ever seen or read. He must have been drinking too much dumbass juice that day.

Second, his bad, bad articles. I mean, have you seen how they're written? Grammatical error here, grammatical error there, everywhere a grammatical error. Old McWamser had a farm, E I E I Oh no. Third, and we can't kid ourselves here… ever since Will "Shaky Hands" Wamser took over the Op/Ed section, it's gone to shit. I mean I had to hack my way into the weekly to even get your favorite articles of the past three weeks published (no I didn't). He's a fear mongering, power hungry editor and someone has to stop him. That someone is me. I want to take a break here, not only because I want a glass of water (and you're gonna get me one), but also to expand on what I just said.

You see this issue of the Muhlenberg Weekly? You see how it's all about hate for Ol' Shaky Hands? That's because of me. The staff originally wanted this issue to be about grass, don't ask me why. But I've been slaving away, making an issue by hand, slamming the Wam. And the only reason you're reading it is because at the last second, Emily Drake, who is on my side, is gonna publish this masterpiece instead. Because she hates grass AND Will Wamser. Let's get back to why little boy Shake n' Bake sucks. The fourth reason is the conspiracy I've been brewing about Wamser and his intimate relationship with the substance known as milk. Let's look at the evidence. In March of 2018, Shak Bak writes an article SLAMMING milk, talking all about just how bad it is. Then, in April of that same year, he would be seen on stage with his "comedy" group, seemingly loving milk, downing a whole glass! Now, if you talk to him he will be back on his high horse about hating milk. I mean, what kind of person even takes this kind of dumb stance? I have to admit that I also don't drink milk, but while I do it for the cows, he does it for the notoriety of being a non-milk drinker, and that sucks. The final and most important reason that Will "Cheese Cheeks" Wamser sucks is that he doesn't give me any attention. I cry almost every night thinking about how lavish he's living, and how he never gives me the time of day. And I will mention, his hair is dumb. It's too blonde and so dumb. We're supposed to be besties, bffs, bffls, bfflz. But these days, he's less like a bff and more like a Biff Tannen…(back to the future guy by the way…)

Yours Truly,
The Hater, The Queen, Wataholic Numero Uno

GRAPHIC OPINIONS

In honor of Batman's eightieth anniversary

Eighty reasons why I read Batman comics:

By Melissa Reph
Washington Correspondent

1) Batgirl 2) Barbara Gordon 3) Cassandra Cain 4) Stephanie Brown 5) Robin 6) Dick Grayson 7) Jason Todd 8) Tim Drake 9) Damian Wayne 10) Carrie Kelly 11) Duke Thomas 12) Alfred Pennyworth 13) Oracle 14) Black Bat 15) Spoiler 16) Nightwing 17) Red Hood 18) Red Robin 19) Signal 20) Harper Row 21) Bluebird 22) Leslie Thompkins 23) James Gordon 24) Harvey Bullock 25) Renee Montoya 26) Kate Kane 27) Batwoman 28) Batcow 29) Ace the Bathound 30) Titus 31) Alfred the Cat 32) Jerry the Turkey 33) Azrael 34) Jean-Paul Valley 35) Huntress 36) Helena Bertinelli 37) Selina Kyle 38) Holly Robinson 39) Catwoman 40) Misfit 41) Charlie Gage-Radcliffe 42) Dinah Laurel Lance 43) Black Canary 44) Zatanna 45) John Constantine 46) Clark Kent 47) Superman 48) Diana Prince 49) Wonder Woman 50) Tatsu Yamashiro 51) Katana 52) Vicki Vale 53) Lois Lane 54) Terry McGinnis 55) Matt McGinnis 56) Lucius Fox 57) Tam Fox 58) Luke Fox 59) Batwing 60) Tiffany Fox 61) Pamela Isley 62) Poison Ivy 63) Harleen Quinzel 64) Harley Quinn 65) Condiment King 66) Killer Moth 67) Penguin 68) Riddler 69) Two-Face 70) Mad Hatter 71) Clayface 72) Killer Croc 73) Bane 74) Scarecrow 75) Talia al Ghul 76) Ra's al Ghul 77) Man-Bat 78) Mr. Freeze 79) Calculator 80) Crazy Quilt

All (pink) eyes on the LSC:

College admits they purposely spread pink eye to toughen up spring student-athletes

By Jason Grant
Ross from Friends

Well, the source of the pink eye epidemic has finally been identified. On Monday, the Muhlenberg College athletic department admitted that the pink eye outbreak, which has wreaked havoc on campus recently, was started in an effort by President Williams to toughen up varsity athletes and improve their performance.

About two weeks ago, students all around campus began to notice the pink eye outbreak.

Adam Kronick ‘21, the first known student-athlete to contract pink eye, was slightly annoyed to find out the college got him sick, but not surprised. “I mean, I didn’t like having pink eye, but I lived in Prosser last year, and that place was a cesspool of feces and urine, so this was no worse than a paper cut for me,” Kronick explained. “But now that I think about it, it was a little weird when I woke up to President Williams massaging my eyelids with his index fingers. I’ll have to be more aware of that next time.”

In a fiery press conference on Tuesday, President Williams and Athletic Director, Lynn Tubman justified their questionable actions. “Call me old fashioned, but back in ‘Nam we used to say, ‘what doesn’t kill you makes you stronger’ and ‘they’re in the f%#$ing trees man!’ But if you think about it, if you can master how to hit a home run with one eye, imagine how many you’ll hit with two! Hey that’s a great point actually! Damn I’m good. Effective immediately, I will be taking over as Head Baseball Coach at Muhlenberg College!” the President exclaimed before sprinting away, presumably to get his bat and glove.

When pressed for comment by students the next day, President Williams seemed to get very defensive, “I don’t understand what everyone is getting so worked up for. At the bottom of all those long emails I send, it says students are subject to human testing and experiments. Don’t you guys read those?”

Unfortunately, the President′s method of sports conditioning had unintended consequences, as it spread to many students who do not even play sports. Zachary Gordon-Sandweiss ‘21, who is not on a varsity team, got a bad case of pink eye from his first, and only, trip to the gym. He was a little angry when he found out it was the school, but suggests the college stick to what they do best. “Their usual methods of not changing the water filters and leaving mounds of snow on the walkways would have been just as effective. However, I am excited to see how they attempt to poison us going forward,” he said.

In a statement to the students, President Williams finally did apologize, but not for spreading the pink eye. “I’m very sorry we attempted to give our athletes pink eye to make them stronger, because clearly it did not work,” Williams lamented. “All our athletes did was complain, go to the doctor, miss practice, and take all the free condoms from the health center. In the future, we will disperse new, more effective illnesses. For next semester, I’m thinking syphilis or malaria, but we’ll see what the Board of Trustees thinks.”

Muhlenberg sets off on daring mission

College rocks the boat with their unveiling of all new Crew team

By Noah Brill
Contributing Writer

The Muhlenberg athletics department unveiled their new plan to implement a crew team recently. After the official announcement, many noted the conspicuous timing, as the recent college admissions scandal exposed the illicit activities of coaches, universities, and parents across the country. The school is making no secret of its intentions and openly admitted that they are doing this because they see it as a lucrative opportunity.

“After learning about what was going on at USC, Yale, Stanford and several other universities, it made me think ‘why not test the waters?’” Athletic Director Lynn Tubman said. “If the crew experiment proves to make as much money for us as it did for those schools, maybe we’ll be able to expand our horizons and add a sailing team.”

The first part of the process will begin over the summer, when athletic administrators from Muhlenberg will scour the country looking for the best potential recruits. The fact that all of them will be the offspring of prominent lawyers, bankers, and celebrities will be no coincidence. “I started learning rowing terms over the weekend, because I knew that if we were going to go through with this, it would be my responsibility to create the kids’ resumes,” added Sports Information Director Mike Falk. “When the school approached me to see if I would be able to help make these prospective students look like recruits, I thought ‘I’m already doing this with tennis, how hard could it be to do it for crew as well?’”

The largest hurdle the school needs to overcome in order to put their plan into motion, though, is the aforementioned move to Division I sports, in large part so that they could offer athletes scholarships. This could pose a problem, as the process could take between three and five years and the college has already put its plan into action. There is some hope, however, that an unnamed faculty member has connections with several higher ups at the NCAA, and the school has been needling on them to help accelerate the process and alter the school’s status as soon as July 1.

The school had yet to answer the biggest question surrounding its newest team as nobody knew where they are planning to actually row. That all changed yesterday. “We’re planning to close the LSC pool for two hours every week and designate that as ‘rowing time” Associate Athletic Director Megan Patruno told The Weekly via phone. “That should be enough to fool the gullible bureaucrats at the NCAA. Right, Lynn?”

Although there are many questions afloat around the College about their plan for its newest revenue stream, the most pertinent seems to be whether or not current students will be able to row. “You already were admitted,” Tubman told a current first year student, “why wouldn’t you want to join a team that doesn’t actually exist?” “I’m here for the gear,” the student replied.

from **CA** page 12

athlete began, “the theatre and dance department and whatever were ranked number one in the country. Number one is a pretty low number. So that means its bad, obviously.” The impressive logic continued. “Think about all of our sports teams. When you add all of our rankins up we have to be at least thousandth. Maybe even over A MILLION. Now those are some impressive stats.”

The facility will feature six locker rooms, one for each team and an additional one for opponents, with state-of-the-art facilities. Lights will be installed and shine throughout the day and night to bother the neighbors at all times of the day.

Regardless, the endeavour will proceed with support from the athletics office.

“I think the multi-purpose stadium will be great for the college,” said one source from the athletics department. “Everyone knows that kids come to college for sports. So just imagine driving down Chew Street and seeing that beautiful new stadium. Now that leaves an impression.”

“Look at this campus,” the source continued. “You have classrooms in old frat houses that smell like beer. You have students living in portable sheds. The students who utilized the CA are lucky they even had a building in the first place.”

To do my journalistic due dilagence I tried interviewing a student who hopes to pursue a career in the arts. A clear quote could not be made out through the constant sobbing and sniffling. Honestly, I think they took it pretty well.

Even Plant Ops hates the CA! “The CA was poorly built in an unsustainable fashion with those high glass ceilings. Who ever thought that would be good for the electric bill?!?”

Now, many of you may be wondering, doesn’t Muhlenberg have some Master Plan that is supposed to outline the future of the college? You know, the document we paid a lot of money for someone to write that (which no one actually read) says in 30 years the school will have another academic building, a used car dealership, a planetarium, a Yankee Candle and like... 17 new parking spaces.

The answer to that question is yes. Yes we do have a Master Plan.

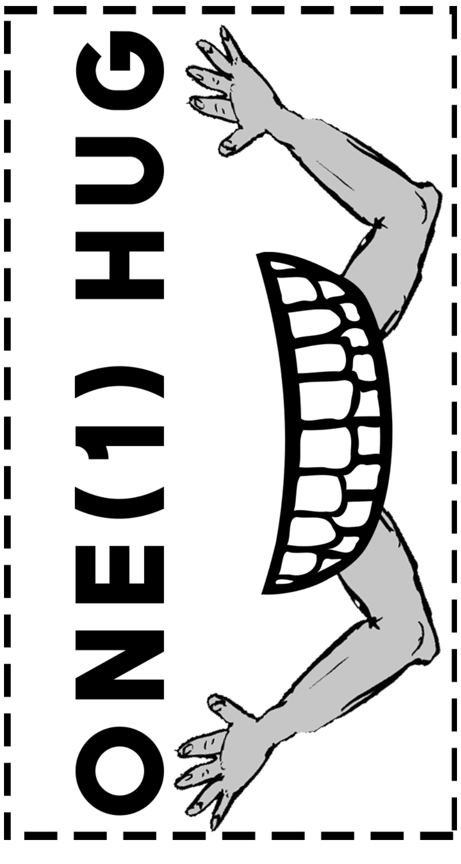
When I asked President John Williams about deviating from the recently instituted plan the both of us were chillin’ in his office. He took out the OG copy of the plan.

He asked “Oh, you mean this?”

“Yes,” I said.

I kid you not the man tossed it over his back shoulder into a fireplace which quickly engulfed the report. If I remember correctly I am pretty sure the chorus of Rick Ross’ “Imma Boss” was playing faintly as well.

He looked straight into my eyes and said. “Matt, there ain’t nothing more American than Hank Muhlenberg, apple pie, and artificial grass.”



Wrestling gets the thumbs up

It was a long time coming, but thumb wrestling has finally made its way to Muhlenberg

By Samantha Brenner
Contributing Writer

At 18 wins in the season, the Muhlenberg men's wrestling team has succeeded beyond the coach's belief. At home they are six and two, away, one and three. While the stats are good, Head Coach Jason McLean is looking for a change. "I just think that this change will help motivate the team and push them to their greatest potential."

And what is that change? Thumb wrestling. "Putting their talents into their own hands is something that I think will help further improve our program and help push our school to the top of the Centennial Conference," said McLean.

Coach made his decision and alerted the team. Their responses, outstanding. "I can't wait to use what coach has taught us. He understands our team and I know this change is the best for us." Austin Sherman '20 commented. "It just makes sense" he added.

While this transition may be seen as a surprise to the small liberal arts college, but the team is excited to start this new chapter of Muhlenberg Wrestling.

The best part, the gear. "All men will be receiving new gear, gear small enough to fit everyone's thumbs, all shapes and sizes," the coaching staff exclaimed. "This is something we really are looking forward to seeing. Each thumb gets its own unitard. They even come with their own personalized gym bags, towels, water bottles, and baseball hats! We want them to be as excited as we are."

This positive change towards the team is aimed at helping win more games. "The dream would be to be undefeated," coach continued. "It would mean everything to me and the boys".

The major question is, what does it look like to have a thumb wrestling team? "Hard work and dedication," Mike Cannon '20 exclaimed. "It's something that coach stresses and something that we really value. Personally I can't wait to see where this team goes."

The rebranding of the wrestling team has allowed the captains to step up and show why they were chosen as the leaders. But, what worries the coaches, as well as the entire team, is injury. In this competitive sport, thumb injuries are high on the coaches' radar. It's something that the coaches want the fighters to be aware of. "We have developed unique exercises to help prevent injury, but in the end it's something that we can only try to prevent, and unfortunately there is a major possibility it will happen," Coach Mclean said.

Mclean does his best to prevent injury by using practice time as a moment for teaching. "They learn how to avoid injury during our practices. We even were able to get special thumb gear to help with the preventive steps with injuries. We are taking this extremely seriously."

As for this new young team, it's all about working together. "We have to support each other, we have to make sure that everybody is on the same page, whether it be remembering the unitards, helping each other during cardio, weights, or six a.m. lift. This transition period is definitely bringing us together," Sherman responded.

For the rest of the season, their hopes remain high. "The energy in the locker room has changed, it's higher than ever," coach continued. This new identity for the wrestling team will allow the talent on the team to shine. "On a recruiting standpoint, we can find so many talented men who are dedicated to the rising sport in thumb wrestling and will put in the time and effort to help our team win titles, even as a Division III school," Mclean stated.

Through teamwork, group practices, tournaments, conference finals, and gym sessions, the team will be able to take thumb wrestling to a new level. The change from traditional wrestling to thumbs will allow for a new spotlight to be shown on the talent and strength that the wrestling team holds.

The support from the team was shown through the Muhlenberg community. Other sports teams have noticed a different attitude from the wrestlers in the gym, and it has shown a positive light on them.

"With our first tournament coming up, we hear the talk, we hear the buzz, and we really do appreciate it," Cannon said.

The first match in Muhlenberg thumb wrestling history is next week in the Field House and they expect full support from the Muhlenberg community.

Muhlenberg Dukes it out

By Alex Horowitz
Senior Staff Writer

It was an upset unlike any before.

In the first round of the 2019 NCAA D1 Men's Basketball Tournament, the Muhlenberg Mules, playing their first ever tournament game, in their first year of eligibility as a D1 school, shocked the world and defeated the number one overall seed Duke Blue Devils by a score of 80-77, in Raleigh, NC on Friday afternoon.

Playing just miles from Duke's campus located in Durham, the Mules took an early lead before falling down at halftime by eight points. In the locker room at halftime, Head Coach Kevin Hopkins gave the team an inspiring speech that showed the guys they stood a chance against the best team in the country.

"It's a new game now and we just have to keep on playing the same efficient basketball that has gotten us to this point all season," said Hopkins.

Clearly, something Hopkins said must've resonated with the players, as the Mules began the second half on a 10-0 run to take back the lead from Duke. From there, the game was a back-and-forth contest, with no team leading by more than four points the rest of the way.

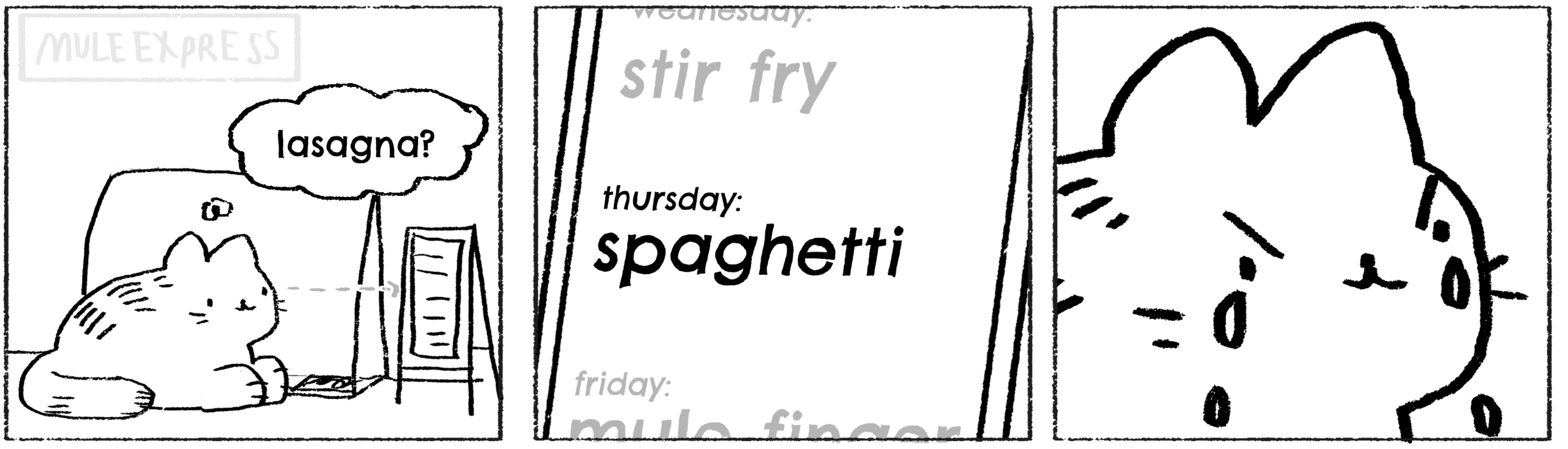
Despite all of this, Duke was still likely to win as the final seconds neared. With the game tied and star freshman Zion Williamson at the foul line, he had a chance to essentially seal up the game with his free throws. But he missed both, and on the second miss the rebound was secured by Dan Gaines '22, who passed it out to Brendan Hughes '19 for the game-winning basket as time expired. The Muhlenberg crowd who made the long journey down to North Carolina was in exuberant celebration as the players made their way to far end of the court to celebrate with the fans.

"Despite the long odds, I knew we had a chance against Duke coming into this game, and I'm so proud of our guys for coming together and getting this win. We're not done yet though, and we're confident as ever for our next game on Sunday," Hopkins said.

The Mules now move onto the Round of 32 to take on the University of Central Florida Knights. While a 16 seed has never advanced into the Sweet 16, don't put the past the Mules, who believe they have the talent and playmaking abilities to advance all the way to the Final 4 in Minneapolis this year.

"We may have won in what most people would call an 'upset.' But we know that we can compete with any team in this bracket, and we're just happy to be here and continue playing further into this weekend," said Coach Hopkins.

marfield hates thursdays
by dim javis



THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Baker Center for the Arts to be demolished for new turf

Administration paid a contractor $300 for this high definition render of what the demolition process will look like.

By Matt Riebesell
Managing Editor

The war is over! Logic, superiority, and a bunch of other cool nouns that describe awesome things has prevailed.

Muhlenberg College has come to its senses, deciding to begin construction of a new multipurpose athletic stadium on the grounds of the current CA. The demolition of the CA will take place on Apr. 1 at 7 a.m.

The wildly popular decision was announced by a rogue tweet from Muhlenberg President John Williams' new Twitter account. The news was obviously met with great applause from every single member of the Muhlenberg community.

"There isn't a single person who doesn't support knocking the CA down," said a student-athlete who requested anonymity in fear of retaliation from those who once enjoyed the CA.

But why would the school who has established arts programs like Muhlenberg choose to remove the building that the arts take place in?

"Because." said Muhlenberg President John Williams, who sat down for a one-on-one exclusive interview. Seemed like a good enough answer for me.

Anyways, Muhlenberg is celebrating the big day by offering select seating to students on a first come first serve basis. Students have already begun camping out near the library and are excited for ground to break.

"The only time I wake up before noon is to go to workout, drive to Johns Hopkins once a year, and to show up 30 minutes late for class. But even I wouldn't miss this!" explained another thrilled student athlete. "I will be there at 4:30 a.m. sharp with my binoculars and a big ol' tub of buttery popcorn to watch that building fall."

The construction will commence as soon as anticipated student protesters are safely removed from the site.

The College wanted me to remind students that any rowdy protesting will result in a fine. Not an ordinary fine, though. One almost as bad as having a candle in your room. Failure to pay the fine will result in a block on your registration (And even if you pay the fine you WILL still get an error message when it's your turn to register for classes).

On Apr. 2, 2019 Muhlenberg has promised to hold a town hall style event where individuals who don't agree with the fantastic news can voice their opinions.

The project is estimated to be completed by the end of the 2020 academic calendar year, no matter what those with complaints have to say at the town hall.

It will be able to accommodate fields for the baseball, softball, men's and women's lacrosse, and field hockey teams. The football team will become sole users of Scotty Wood Stadium, and the men's and women's soccer programs will stay on Varsity field.

One fan of the baseball team and long time Mule Madness donor said, "I mean this was really necessary. We have some teams playing over at Cedar Creek Park a few miles off campus. That's basically in Berks county! The arts have been at Muhlenberg long enough and I think it is time to share."

Well said!

Other student athletes clearly and thoughtfully explained their intellectual opinions on the new stadium too.

"Think about it this way," one student

SEE **CA** PAGE 12

Coming up this week in SPORTS

Who are we kidding? No one reads this section, let alone the rest of the newspaper. And none of you actually show up to matches anyways. Screw you guys! Find the matches yourslves

Sport
THIS ONE IS FOR CONFERENCES
Day, Month. Date
Location

Sport
THIS ONE IS FOR CONFERENCES
Day, Month. Date
Location

Sport
MUHLENBERG VS *SOMEWHERE*
Day, Month. Date @ x:xx am/pm
Location

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Lydia Panas portraits explore femininity, communication, and desire

read more on 7

Photo Courtesy of Office of Communications

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NEWS

The Weekly interviews Student Government Association presidential candidates ahead of their upcoming race on Monday, April 15.

read more on 3

ARTS & CULTURE

Joshua Weinberg brings the Contemporary Music Festival to an exciting close as he combines flute, percussion, and vocal performance to create an amazing performance

read more on 7

OP/ED

Melissa Reph '20 debunks the idea that politics are supposed to be respectful, arguing that there is historical precedent saying that they never have been.

read more on 9

Photo Courtesy of Athletics

SPORTS

The upperclassmen of Muhlenberg Baseball have been given the opportunity to chose their very own walk up song; songs that motivate and define them.

read more on 11

O War takes the stage by storm

By Ellen Powers
Staff Writer

The second part of Theatre and Dance Department professor Holly Cate's adaptation of Shakespeare's War of the Roses trilogy, *O War*, was performed. This play was a follow-up to the first installment in Cate's trilogy, *Glory*, which premiered on the Muhlenberg mainstage last year.

Although *O War* was a clear continuation from the first play in the trilogy, Troy Dwyer, the faculty director, as well as the various designers, did excellent work in making this play stand out as its own entity as well. All of the elements of the play, from the script to the performances to the design, came together to create a seamless, immersive production.

see **O War** page 5

Photo Courtesy of Ken Ek

The conversation of consent

By Sydney Coplin
News Editor

When Bonny Shade entered the stage of Miller's Forum on the evening of Monday, April 1 for her talk "Just Another Assault: An In-Depth Look at Issues Surrounding Assault, Rape Culture and Healing," she started out by challenging the crowd to think differently about their preexisting assumptions surrounding sexual assault. She looked into the rows of students and graciously thanked everyone for being there, and then proceeded to present them with a pop quiz.

This "quiz" involved Shade displaying a sentence on the projector screen, and then told the audience that they would have 10 seconds to count the number of times they spotted the letter "f." While the correct number of times this letter appeared was revealed to be six, a good portion of people only saw it three times, due to the fact that, as Shade explained, our brains create synapses: shortcuts to allow us to go through complex tasks in simplistic ways. In other words, most people were not reading the full sentences, often skipping over words to try to complete the timed task as quickly as possible.

She then proceeded to connect this seamlessly trivial pop quiz to the broader issue of discussing sexual assault.

"We need to learn to break our synapses to have more conversations about sexual violence," Shade proclaimed, alluding to how oftentimes people create shortcuts and do not go into depth with this topic.

Shade's entry into education all began when she read the book and watched the movie *Freedom Writers* (2007). The story of the teacher having a huge effect on the lives of her students sparked the first light bulb moment in Shade's life, leading her to switch from being just a Biology Major at Florida Gulf Coast University to an Education and Creative Writing minor. She then had the opportunity to teach high schoolers in Florida about science.

"For 50 minutes a day, six class periods a day, with students between 14-18, I was teaching them about stuff I knew they didn't care about it," said Shade. "But, for 50 minutes a day, they got to sit there and be themselves. It was the most amazing year of my life."

Nonetheless, Shade revealed that there was still some wattage left in her lightbulb, and her work was not yet complete. In 2016, she read the book *Missoula: Rape and the Justice System in a College Town* by Jon Krakauer, guiding her towards becoming not just an educator, but an educator surrounding sexual assault. More specifically, she began to grapple with her own experience with sexual assault for the first time since it happened.

"I never thought I would care about a global issue until I became a survivor of a global issue," she said, revealing that it took her nearly seven years to come to terms with what had happened to her.

Shade was sexually assaulted by her best friend, a boy that she knew very well, while she was home one weekend from college. She explained that there is a misconception that perpetrators of sexual assault are often strangers, when in reality, 85 percent of the time it is by someone that you know.

In addition to her personal experience, she also went into detailed discussions regarding the differences between perception and reality, unwise versus unethical behavior and also the complexities of consent.

"Consent has to be a conversation, especially when alcohol is involved," she explained.

Shade's main framework for consent was broken up into an acronym: A.C.E.O, which stands for Active, Conscious, Eager and Ongoing, the characteristics of proper consent.

She also presented an analogy which connected consent with ordering food at Chipotle.

"If you can order Chipotle, you can ask for consent," she said. "[At Chipotle] they're not gonna assume just because they ordered brown rice last time that you still want it."

Just like the constant questions and reassurance that is offered when ordering a burrito or bowl from Chipotle, Shade explained that there should be constant questions and reassurance in relation to consent as well.

Shade also encouraged students to look out for one another, and to use each other as resources.

"When pottery is broken in Japan, the pieces are shattered all over the floor. The artist will collect and put them together using gold. Sexual violence can often feel like it is breaking our communities. It is a topic that is there, but we may not want to address it," she explained. "I need you to be the gold for each other."

Since April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, there will be more programming in the coming weeks to continue these conversations about consent.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY
Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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The Muhlenberg Weekly strives for accuracy in reporting and writing, but we acknowledge that mistakes happen. Readers are invited to submit corrections about errors in articles, and they should be submitted to weeklyeditor@gmail.com. Corrections are also brought to our staff's attention by our own editors and writers. Our staff will review the suggested correction, consult with the author of the article, and issue the appropriate correction. Online corrections are located at the bottom of the article. Print corrections are located within the paper, on the page indicated in the online edition. However, The Weekly does not grant take-down requests for articles.

ADVERTISING POLICY

We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

Monday, March 25
Parking Violation - 12:25 p.m.
Report of a vehicle illegally parked at the Center for the Arts. Vehicle was not registered and was booted by a Campus Safety Officer.

Tuesday, March 26
Sick Student - 6:19 p.m.
Report of a sick student in Parents Plaza. Muhlenberg College EMS responded and the student refused further treatment or transport.

Sick Student - 10:25 p.m.
Report of a sick student in Prosser Hall. Muhlenberg EMS responded and the student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Wednesday, March 27
Parking Violation - 1:02 p.m.
Report of a vehicle illegally parked at the Center for the Arts. Vehicle was not registered and was booted by a Campus Safety Officer.

Injured Student - 10:00 p.m.
Report of an injured student in Martin Luther Hall, second floor. Muhlenberg College EMS responded, Student Health Services was notified and the student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Thursday, March 28
Parking Violation - 12:51 p.m.
Report of a vehicle illegally parked on Benfer Drive. Vehicle was not registered and was booted by a Campus Safety Officer.

Sick Student - 3:26 p.m.
Report of a sick student in Martin Luther Hall, second floor. Allentown EMS responded and transported the student to the hospital.

Friday, March 29
Parking Violation - 8:09 a.m.
Report of a vehicle illegally parked in the Trexler Library Lot. Vehicle was not registered and was booted by a Campus Safety Officer.

Fire Alarm - 5:39 p.m.
Report of a fire alarm sounding from cooking at 2245 Gordon Street. The system was silenced and reset.

Point of Information - 10:06 p.m.
Report of a missing fire extinguisher in Benfer Hall, second floor. Item was later found on a different floor and replaced.

Saturday, March 30
Criminal Mischief - 12:01 a.m.
Report of graffiti found on sidewalk at 2147 Chew Street. There are no suspects at this time.

Theft - 7:30 a.m.
Report of a missing boot from a vehicle at the Center for the Arts. The item was later recovered and an investigation is to continue.

Theft - 6:24 p.m.
Report of a theft of Airpods in Walz Hall, second floor. The items were later returned.

Found Property - 10:20 p.m.
Report of found Airpods in Prosser Hall. The item was placed in the lost and found locker.

Alarms - 10:50 p.m.
Report of a water leak in East Hall. Plant Operations was notified and responded as did Simplex.

Sunday, March 31
Fire Alarm - 7:30 p.m.
Report of fire alarm sounding from cooking on Leh Street. System was silenced and reset.

Fire Alarm - 11:16 p.m.
Report of fire alarm sounding from cooking on Leh Street. System was silenced and reset.

Save the Date!

Muhlenberg College
Dining

Earth Day 4/12
Look for our table at the Earth Day Celebration from 11 am to 4 pm on Parent's Plaza on Friday, April 12th.

The Mobile Mule Lunch 4/16
Marti the Mule will be parked at the Courts on April 16th serving lunch!

The General's Carvery 4/17
We'll be outside the GQ on April 17th during lunch serving Smoked Turkey Sandwiches

Farmer's Market 4/26
The Spring 2019 Farmer's Market will be held on Friday, April 26th from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm.

The Mobile Mule: Late Night Edition
On May 2nd, come out to the Mobile Mule at the Hoffman House from 10 pm to 2 am for some late night food!

Late Night Breakfast 5/3
This year's Late Night Breakfast will be held on the last day of class, Friday, May 3rd, in the Wood Dining Commons.

Senior Week Events
We are looking forward to celebrating the class of 2019 with numerous events throughout senior week including Champagne Brunch on May 17th, Family Appreciation on May 18th, and the Commencement Lucnheon on May 19th.

Follow us for updates on upcoming events: @bergdining

Get to know your SGA presidential candidates

Interviews with Nicholas Gregg-Rubingh and Stephanie Ng

By Laura Schwarz
Asst. News Editor

On April 15, students will be able to vote for their SGA president and representatives for the 2019-2020 academic term. Along with the 28 students running for representative positions, Jonathan Diaz ‘20, Nicholas Gregg-Rubingh ‘20 and Stephanie Ng ‘20 are vying for the spot of president, set to replace current SGA president, Karlee Makely ’19.

The Muhlenberg Weekly sat down with two of these presidential candidates to hear their goals, plans and hopes for the future of SGA and Muhlenberg, beyond their personal statements available online. Diaz could not be reached for comment.

Photo Courtesy of Stephanie Ng

Stephanie Ng’s campaign is hoping to add additional study days before final exams.

The Muhlenberg Weekly: *What sets you apart from the other two candidates?*

Nicholas Gregg-Rubingh: “I’ve served on SGA for two years now and I think during that time I personally have been able to start a number of initiatives and see them through to their conclusion. So, I think I can really point to a track record of things I’ve accomplished and I think that shows that going forward I’ll continue to be able to do that.”

Stephanie Ng: “Well I think I’m pretty involved on campus. I’m involved in a lot of different things for example, I’m a bio major but I’m also a math and art minor, but I’m also an athlete, so I see all different groups and I can relate and really see what people need and want.”

Ng also cites her organizational skills in helping to facilitate her proactive nature.

“My goal is to also motivate other people and help them build their leadership while I’m building mine.”

TMW: *What is one central improvement that you would focus on as president?*

NGR: “One of the main reasons I decided to run is because I’ve noticed SGA recently has been heading towards a kind of turning inward and spending a lot of time changing our own bylaws, changing our election dates, reshuffling around our structure and constituent groups and all this,” he explains.

“I think in some ways there’s a lot of untapped potential and we’ve kind of lost sight of our original purpose which is helping students and making students’ lives better. So, I want to run for president because I want to start pushing us more in the direction of going out to the students and finding problems and coming up with solutions with them and stop worrying about ourselves and start worrying about our students.”

SN: “The big thing that I’ve been working on. . .is that I think the reading period at Muhlenberg is way too short. We did bring [this issue] to the Academic Policy Committee. This has been brought up several times and nothing has been done about it.”

Ng recognizes the issues involved with creating longer reading periods, like negotiating contracts with Sodexo for keeping school resources open longer, but she is adamant about the necessity of this extra time.

“That’s something that I definitely want to work on. . . I really think we need an extra day or two for the reading period.”

TMW: *What do you think about SGA’s new constituency program? Has it improved transparency and communication with students? How would you continue or not continue the program as president?*

NGR: “I think the constituency program itself is a great idea and giving people individual students to talk to is a great idea and [does] a little to improve engagement and transparency as a whole.”

However, after being abroad last semester, Gregg-Rubingh expressed concern that a number of initiatives he had previously worked on to create transparency with students are no longer in effect.

“I started sending out a weekly summary of the meetings to everyone in accessible language and that’s no longer being done. Our meetings were moved from [Seegers Union] where anyone can stop by, to the second floor of Haas. . .I think we backslid a little bit on some of the progress we’ve made, and while constituency groups are a great step in the right direction, there’s a lot of other things we need to do.”

Gregg-Rubingh discussed the difference between what he calls “passive transparency” and “active transparency.”

“Passive transparency is ‘oh their data is available’ but you have to really seek it out, walk over to Haas, go on the Web site, and look around for a while before you find it. I think we should have active transparency where we’re not waiting for people to come to us, where they’re letting us know ‘Hey this is what’s going on. This might concern you.’”

Photo Courtesy of Nicholas Gregg-Rubingh

Nicholas Gregg-Rubingh’s campaign is hoping to improve SGA transparency.

SN: “I think it’s definitely a good program, but I think the faults in it are if you have a representative who isn’t willing to go and meet with their constituency groups. I think one thing we’ve been struggling with is the constituency groups aren’t necessarily communicating back with us so we’ll really try to reach out but then we’ll send out emails and no one responds. So just improvement on communication and how to get people more engaged, would make it a more effective program.”

TMW: *A lot of students seem to only interact with SGA to get funding for clubs or organizations. How would you maybe improve this process and make the interactions more than just about funding?*

NGR: “Another one of the reasons I decided to run is because I feel like a lot of people have started to see SGA as more of an obstacle than a resource, like something you have to get around and make sure you check all their boxes or else you won’t get any funding for the year. I think SGA can be a tremendous resource and working together with people to solve problems and I think constituency groups are a step in the right direction.”

Gregg-Rubingh explained how direct interaction with student groups can create effective change.

“One of the initiatives I personally worked on were gender neutral bathrooms. Muhlenberg Trans Advocacy Coalition, MTAC, made a presentation to student government and they told us that they talked to President Williams about why we need gender neutral bathrooms and he kind of arm waved and said there are too many laws that made it difficult, which didn’t sound right to me. So, I called the Allentown mayor’s office, I called the code office, and I met up with a local Allentown architect. Then I went through over 100 pages of the International Building Code, and then I formed the joint committee between Muhlenberg Trans Advocacy Coalition and student government.”

He describes how the committee counted every toilet and sink on campus to create a presentation for school administration on how creating gender neutral bathrooms was possible, leading to many being designated on campus.

“People don’t know SGA is a body that can [create change like gender neutral bathrooms], can get behind you and work on things. They see us mostly as a funding thing. Sending out a summary of what we’re doing and reaching out to people so they know ‘Hey we actually do stuff’ when we have a hot button issue or an issue of importance to the students will actually inform them and let them know how they can get involved.”

SN: “I don’t think people realize the committees that we sit on sometimes. Right now for example I’m sitting on CCFL, it’s a committee for fitness health on campus and we meet and talk about things such as creating an athletics honor society. There’s an academic policy committee where we have a student representative there. I think just one thing which we’re trying to work on also is outlining all of these committees and making them more accessible to people. . . I think internally as SGA that clears thing up for us but also creates transparency for the students so they know exactly who they’re going to and what’s being done.”

TMW: *Do you have any ideas or programs that you would implement to support marginalized students on campus?*

NGR: “In terms of marginalized groups on campus, one problem I’ve noticed in the same vein as transparency, is there’s a lack of communication. With the Bear Security incident that happened when they were finally kicked

SEE **SGA** PAGE 4

Worrisome weeds or purposeful protectors?

A look at the rain gardens on Muhlenberg's campus

By Jacqueline McKenna
Contributing Writer

Karly McCloskey / The Muhlenberg Weekly

The rain garden located between Walz and Taylor is more than meets the eye.

When you walk through the Muhlenberg College campus you will see beautiful brick buildings, green manicured lawns and athletic fields, trimmed landscapes and strategically placed trees. The landscape is well planned and cohesive throughout the entire campus. Yet, if you stumble along the parking lot between Walz and Taylor Halls you will instead find swaths of weed-like patches scattered along the sides of the pavement and next to the soccer fields.

"It's the forgotten area" says Julia Low, '19, "it just seems like Muhlenberg forgot about that area of campus." With an entire campus of perfectly planned and planted landscape one must wonder how this corner of campus seemingly slipped through the cracks.

So, what are those weeds? Where did they come from?

To start, these weedy coverings were deliberately planted by Muhlenberg's Plant Operations team. These patches are called rain gardens. Plant Operations, also responsible for the beautiful manicured campus via the meticulous Muhlenberg Landscape Design Guidelines, chose to implement these rain gardens into campus landscape. On Muhlenberg's Office of Sustainability homepage, rain gardens are briefly mentioned as one of Muhlenberg's sustainable initiatives. However, the true value and purpose of these gardens is not fully explained or justified. They were planted for a *real* purpose and reason.

Rain gardens are systems used for environmental protection and mitigation. When it rains, water runs off impervious surfaces, surfaces that water can't readily absorb into concrete and asphalt. In parking lots, chemicals and oil from cars accumulates on the pavement. Then, when it rains, rainwater builds up on the impervious surfaces and washes these pollutants into storm drains entering nearby streams, rivers and, water bodies where these pollutants disturb wildlife and pollute our water.

In Muhlenberg's case, these rain gardens are placed around the parking lot and soccer fields. Therefore, the gardens aren't solely picking up and filtrating parking lot pollution but they can also keep fertilizers and pesticides from the manicured soccer fields from wreaking havoc on natural aquatic ecosystems. In addition, rain gardens can reduce the strain on our waste water systems that are not equipped to handle large amounts of water that accumulate in parking lots and walkways.

"These gardens collect, retain, and then slowly discharge the water, if needed, back into the ground." says Brett Fulton, Assistant Director of Plant Operations. "The soil [in the rain gardens] was amended to allow for better water absorption, and the area was planted with plant material that favors wet 'feet'. These plants will tolerate or even thrive with wet soil under them."

They serve an important function in human altered environments by helping reduce the negative impact we have on our surroundings.

Despite the importance of these buffers and the plaques denoting and explaining the use of these spaces, campus knowledge about our leafy allies is severely low. Often, complaints can be heard about the appearance of the landscape in this area and most students have no idea what these rain gardens are or what their purpose is.

"They look kind of gross," said Victoria Basciano, '20.

Another student, Alyssa Ahdieh '20, expressed her confusion about the state of the landscape asking, "Why doesn't anyone take care of it?"

However, Fulton mentioned how rain gardens are more attractive than alternative water retention methods.

"The college decided to use the rain garden approach rather than unattractive catch basins," said Fulton.

Despite their appearance, it was evident that almost every student I spoke to didn't have a clue to what purpose the rain gardens served on campus.

"We sit on a hill, so any run-off from paved areas, particularly parking lots, will make its way pretty quickly to Cedar Creek. Cedar Creek park is already prone to flooding, so anything we can do to minimize run-off is important," said Karen Tuerk, Environmental Science Program Lecturer at Muhlenberg College.

On our campus, the gardens help to mitigate the problems we create ourselves.

"The gardens are used to control runoff. The roots hold the soil in place which reduces sediment and pollutant runoff," says Dr. Jason Kelsey, Professor and Director of the Environmental Science Program at Muhlenberg College. "There's value there and you can see why they were implemented."

Creating awareness and drawing attention to the significance of rain gardens is essential; writing them off as ugly patches of grasses disconnects us from their purpose and the reason they've been placed where they are. Recognizing how rain gardens curb problems of stormwater runoff is an important step in understanding how humans' negative impacts on land can be reduced.

FROM **SGA** PAGE 3

out, when we finally ended our contract with them after the last straw, I ended up talking with a number of students who said 'Oh I had issues with Bear security and this happened, and I reported it to the administration but I thought it was kind of a one-time thing so I let it go,' and this was quite common, and because everyone thought 'oh it′s just a one-time problem' action wasn′t taken until it spiraled to such an unacceptable level. So, by communicating incidents more adequately to the students they will know 'Is this a one-time thing or is this a serious issue?'"

SN: "I think creating more opportunities and communities for people [is important]"

Ng discussed some struggles in finding a community to interact with as an Asian student on campus, as well as improving dining options for international students.

"I know that a lot of International students get really frustrated with the dining hall for example, so just giving them more opportunities to go off campus and being able to explore. I know a lot of them will drive off campus and buy their own groceries to cook. So just creating more programs for them to have things more accessible. Right now, I′m sitting on a committee that is going to establish new fraternities and sororities and Greek life on campus, and one of the things we′re talking about is making sure that we have a fraternity or sorority for multicultural life and minorities. So, I′m definitely an advocate for that, and I understand where those people are coming from."

TMW: *Would you like to see more student engagement with SGA and how could you improve engagement?*

NGR: "We currently have three committees on SGA, Student Engagement, another one which is basically a synonym for student engagement, and Finance Committee, so possibly even the creation of a fourth committee [whose] whole purpose is to seek out and identify those issues whether it be gender neutral bathrooms. . .to replacing the charging cords when they got old and frayed. . .Identifying these little issues on campus that aren′t hard to fix and then using our power in the administrations here and our funding to fix them. A committee [that is] actually seeking out, canvassing, asking people 'hey what′s a little problem?' and then coming up with solution to that. Another big one I′m working on now is laundry, and how there′s only one change machine on campus and it′s in the far corner [of campus]."

SN: "Yeah definitely, but I understand [that some] people don′t want to get involved because they′re so involved with other things as well, but what I think is important for people to understand is also that if they′re not going to interact and engage [with SGA, then] you′re not going to see the change that you want to happen. We are the liaison between the administration and student, so if we′re not utilized, we have a bad image. People don′t like us and have this false image of us, but we really want them to utilize us."

TMW: *Why do you want to be SGA president?*

NGR: "I think SGA is doing fine, but I think we have a whole lot of untapped potential and we don′t have to just be an obstacle or money granting organization for the students. We have the power to improve students' lives in a tangible way, and I want to be president so I can start moving us towards that and start helping students′ lives and improving student confidence in student government. "

SN: "I just hope to help people. . . For me it′s an opportunity to ensure that I′m able to help people and really listen and develop my leadership skills as well as helping others, and I really hope that I can foster a better community in that way."

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

/ARTS&CULTURE

"It is the spectator, and not life, that art really mirrors."

-Oscar Wilde

Holly Cate's *O War* adaptation immerses Empie audiences

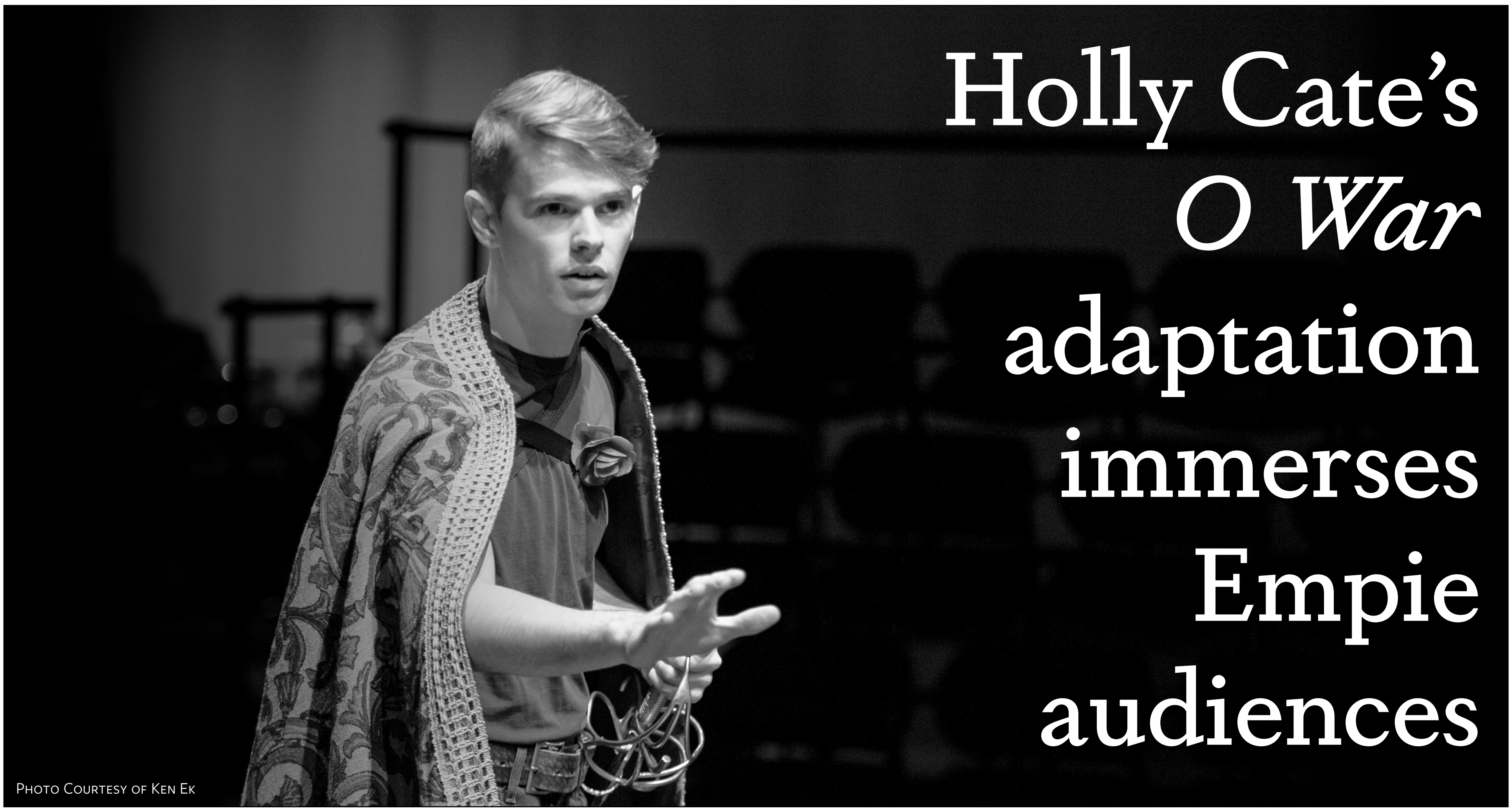


PHOTO COURTESY OF KEN EK

Sean Kenny '20 combats war as Henry VI in "O War."

FROM **O WAR** PAGE 1

The part of *O War* that was instrumental in making it a unique production was its staging. *O War* was performed in the Empie Theatre, which is usually a typical proscenium theatre with the audience on one side of the stage. However, the unique setup for *O War* put the audience on the stage and in the round. In addition, massive pieces of white fabric were hung up on all of the sides of the stage, completely closing the audience in with the action of the play and creating a totally immersive environment.

Besides being in the round, the audience was immersed through the soundscape, designed by Muhlenberg student Benedict Dawn-Cross '20, who also served as the production's musical director.

The soundscape partially included Dawn-Cross's constant playing of percussion live on stage, as well as the work of the Dogs of War ensemble, who battled behind the white fabric to mirror the battles on stage. This immersive experience made the show that much more intense and enthralling for the audience.

Cate's script and the sheer number of characters in the play would occasionally make the plot hard to follow. However, as soon as the audience had the potential to maybe get bogged down in the politics, the script became quite self-aware, largely through the ensemble of actors playing the Clowns. They would either comment on how convoluted the situation appeared at first glance, or they would clarify the different characters and the plot. They also served as a fantastic way to convey the themes like the brutality of war to the audience and even to each other.

The script proved to be a beast for the actors to tackle throughout the rehearsal process, as Jake Erickson '21, who played one of the Clowns, described: "Although it was an exceptional privilege to get to work with Holly [Cate] to strengthen the clarity of the script and find added layers and depth in each individual character, sometimes it was tricky to handle new script pages while lifting a dead body over your head."

However, it seems like the cast took the changes in stride, as the final script seemed more cohesive and gave each character the depth that Erickson discussed.

A large part of what made the ensemble of Clowns such a crucial and wonderful part of *O War* was the fact that they all worked together as a group extremely well, but each actor did an excellent job of allowing each of their individual characters come through.

In talking to Erickson, he explained that a large part of the individualization of the different characters in the ensemble came from the actors themselves: "The script does not specify which clown has what line. Each time a clown speaks it is up to the clown ensemble to decide which voice fits the line best."

The direction and design elements of the production were all top-notch, but so much of what made these elements come together with Cate's script was the performances from the actors in the play.

Each character got their moment to shine, highlighting the actor's work. One standout performance was from Jess Orelus '19, who played the role of Warwick. From the first moment she stepped onto the stage, it was clear that Jess completely embodied her character, maintaining her strength and fierce attitude until the end.

More excellent performances came from Sean Kenny '20 and Ashley Campbell '19, who played King Henry VI and Queen Margaret respectively, as they tackled both of their characters' unhinging as they dealt with the consequences of war in masterful ways. In addition, Thomas Riley '21 as Clifford gave a fantastic performance, grappling with his character's deadly desire for revenge.

Many of the actors' performances were enhanced by the way they reacted to each other. One of the most prominent examples of this was in the way the four sons of York, played by John Capocasale '22, Jesse Kinstler '19, Christian Gutierrez '19, and Meredith Lipson '19, interacted with each other.

Their brotherly relationship was very believable, and it made their brutal and merciless actions in the play that much more heartbreaking.

Even though there was a lot of chemistry between characters who loved each other, the actors who were on opposite sides of the war also played off each other effortlessly. Much of this natural chemistry came out of the nature of the rehearsal process, as Riley explained, "The rehearsal process was very collaborative, actors were given permission and often times succeeded in contributing to the show and script with ideas that work for their characters."

A large part of what made *O War* a thought-provoking experience was how complex the story and each of the characters were. Many of the characters, including Riley's character Clifford, commit brutal actions in the heat of the battle. However, Riley explains, he "knew from the beginning I wanted to make Clifford human. Given his actions, it's so easy to hate him for what he does, but I wanted to go deeper and really find what makes him tick. I found that he isn't driven from a place of evil or rage, but rather pain and responsibility."

Each of the characters in *O War* go through a similar struggle, which made them much more interesting to the audience. They are all flawed people, and their actions force the characters and the audience to grapple with the themes of violence and brutality and how people act in such intense situations.

O War was an excellent showcase of how a play can come together when the actors blend with the work of a fantastic production team. It completely immersed the audience and gave them a lot to think about when they walked away from the performance.

Speaking your truth

Dr. Nikki Gutgold of Penn State University discusses what you can do when you need to stand up for your experiences

By Chloe Gravereaux
Editor-in-Chief

Dr. Nikki Gutgold stood at the front of the Career Lab and asked the crowd of women before her if there was ever a time they wished they had spoken up. Next, she asked, to think of a time when they actually did.

"When we speak fully and forcefully about what we believe in," said Gutgold, "we improve our lives personally, professionally, and we improve our lives in the community. And I think that when we speak in public, we should tell the truth — but even more than that, we should tell our truth."

Gutgold, a professor of Communication Arts and Sciences at Penn State, motivational speaker and author of three books, loosely defined our truth as a lived experience. It can be anything systematic or personal, from discrimination to a rough time at home. Gutgold's Friday, March 29 discussion was titled "Speak Your Truth: The Power of Public Speaking, Conversation and Even Non-verbal Gestures to Change the World."

The first step in speaking your truth, said Gutgold, is to be humble. Gutgold's home campus, Penn State, is an institution with blue collar grassroots that began with the purpose of educating farmer's children. During a meeting with a dean, Gutgold asked what the college was doing about first generation students.

"You could have heard a pin drop," said Gutgold. "He sniffed the air. 'First generation?' and I said 'I'm not even first generation college, I'm first generation high school.'"

Gutgold explains that the second step to speaking your truth is to learn from predecessors. She then went into detail about the movements created by prominent historical figures, such as Rosa Parks and how she had been carefully chosen for that part because of her appearance.

"Then that's not true!" Beverly Tisdale spoke up. "If one is supposed to speak the truth, that's not the case when you are creating a figure."

She continued on to mention Margaret Chase Smith, the first woman to run for president in 1964, and then Shirley Chisholm, who ran for president in 1972 — and was the first black woman to do so. She knew she wasn't going to win, said Gutgold, but she wanted to draw attention to the social constructs surrounding black women in power.

"I want history to remember me… as a black woman who lived in the twentieth century and dared to be herself," Chisholm had said, which Gutgold drew attention to.

Gutgold continued, explaining how sometimes circumstances demand your truth be heard. She gave the example of Tim Piazza's parents, who lost their son to a fraternity hazing tragedy. She also mentioned the case of David Hogg and Emma Gonzalez, survivors and activists from the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting, and Dr. Blasey Ford, and countless others who never expect to be spokesperson for such tragedies, but felt a need to speak up.

Sometimes, said Gutgold, just speaking up is enough to influence others.

Susan Nenstiel told a story of how one member of a finance committee spoke up. A club that did not allow women to join had requested money. She spoke up, and another woman agreed with her, and the committee denied the club funding until it opened membership up to women.

It's important to speak, but also to act, said Gutgold. Nothing will get done if the truth isn't spoken, but the action that comes after is the most important part.

In moments when someone needs to confront another to speak their truth, Gutgold suggested buying time to think of a response by asking the individual to repeat themselves. It's best to speak up, said Gutgold, even if the conversation ends in an agree-to-disagree.

At the end, Gutgold encouraged all listeners to stand up for themselves, and to never apologize for who you are and what you experience.

"Be a first rate version of yourself," Gutgold concluded. "Not a second-rate version of someone else."

Artist of the Week: Introducing Renee Levine

By Chane Kaba
Contributing Writer

Renee Audrey '22, who is a student majoring in Media and Communications and considering a Spanish major or minor, is an artist of the people.

As a member of the Muhlenberg community, Renee is a member of WMUH and has her own radio show called *Fine Tuned*. According to Renee, *Fine Tuned* is a show that "features some alternative music, pop music." Levine further explains how she particularly likes "to provide commentary about the songs that are being played, about the history of the bands that I'm playing on the radio, and the significance of the songs."

With her radio show, she is giving her audience her analysis of the songs. She hopes that she can "connect more to the audience members with the songs she is playing."

Music is one of the great ways people can come together and bond over their shared interests. It was during June advising when Renee heard about WMUH, and she knew that this was something she needed to do when she came to campus.

"In my first [semester] I was originally a chem major on the pre-med track, but I realized that was something I didn't want to do. I grew up with doctors on both sides of my family. I'm the first one to go against the grain and into communications," Renee said.

It was during her first semester of freshman year that Levine became an official member of WMUH. Renee considers WMUH as one of the most important things in her life. While WMUH is a crucial part of her life, she also enjoys taking part in other activities. Renee mentions how she plays guitar and how she has been singing since she was four years old. She has always been interested in different forms of art. Music has always been a part of her life. Her father and sister also have an interest in music, and that also inspired her to partake in her radio show.

There's a process that goes on before Renee goes on air. Renee mentions how she would look at her own playlist and think about the songs that will go well with each other.

"With those songs, I compose another playlist and would listen to that playlist throughout the day. I would jot down little notes about the songs and their meanings," said Levine.

The songs she picks are not chosen at random. Each song she selects is a song that she believes is actually interesting and impactful.

"Each song I choose is based on societal issues that I believe the world should be more aware of," said Levine.

After the song selection, she goes on air where she gives a brief history of each song that is played and the history of the artist so the audience can have a bit more background on the songs in which they are listening.

Whenever Levine plays her selected songs, it is like she is sharing parts of herself to the Muhlenberg community. She believes that "communicating to an audience is one of the most amazing things someone could do."

Not only is Levine part of WMUH, she is also involved with the broadcasting channel and the Jewish Learning Fellowship with the Hillel on campus. She loves staying close to her Jewish community. Levine is quite active on campus with her radio show, broadcasting channel, and her involvement with the Hillel.

Along with her activities, she is also currently taking five classes this semester. When asked how can she handled such a workload, Renee answered in a true college student fashion: "I go to bed late and wake up semi-early time. And drink a lot of coffee."

Renee hopes to do something in broadcasting or television after she graduates, so being part of a radio show is giving her experience for the future. She mentions that she was able to obtain an internship at iHeartRadio this summer and hopes that the internship will grant her more opportunities to network.

As a freshman, she is already doing amazing things and is lucky to figure out what she wants to do in her first year. With her radio show, *Fine Tuned*, Renee is already achieving her goal to leave her mark on Muhlenberg College. Please tune in to *Fine Tuned* on Thursday evenings from 4-6 p.m.

Photo Courtesy of Renee Audrey

Renee Levine '22 plays guitar, which is one of her many musical talents.

Let’s listen to the music of today:

Introducing Joshua Weinberg

By Lauren D. Mazur
Arts & Culture Editor

Karly McCloskey / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Joshua Weinberg plays the flute during a Contemporary Music Festival performance.

Considered a virtuosic flutist, Joshua Weinberg was more than happy to perform the second part to the Muhlenberg music department’s annual Contemporary Music Festival. As I described in my previous article on this event, the Contemporary Music Festival keeps the continuous goal to feature and distribute music of the *now*. Specifically, distributing the word and acknowledgement of *living*, *breathing*, composers.

Organized by Dr. Andrew Ardizzoia, the Contemporary Music Festival sponsors and supports living contemporary composers and performers to showcase music on the college’s campus — more specifically, music that differs from the classical and popular music that is often performed by music students and faculty.

Last weekend, the second and last part to the Contemporary Music Festival was performed; this time featuring the contemporary performer and composer Joshua Wenberg. Every piece performed in his repertoire expressed either the large range of pitch the instrument holds, the various tone qualities it can express, and finally the change in the original *role* and intent of the instrument in question.

“[The piece] pushes the boundary from the softest you can play to the loudest you can play,” Weinberg describes. Before each piece, Weinberg explained certain key aspects in his pieces to listen for, giving overall context and certain historical factors regarding the piece itself. A good example of this is the piece “Voice” by Toru Takemitsu.

Described as one of his “all time favorites,” Weinberg expressed great love for the complexities and historical significance that voice holds for both him and flute performers in general.

For one to understand this piece however, it’s important that the audience gets some context regarding the historical theater that Takemitsu is emulating. Known as the oldest type of theater to be performed, Noh is a performance art that originated from Japan in the fourteenth century. Combining music and dance, Noh uses a series of slow deliberate movements, poetry, and elaborate costume to tell historical legends and folktales. Weinberg, however, wanted to express specifically the way these performers use facial expression — being that there is none. The performers are wearing masks at all times, and use the lights and shadows to change how the expression appears on the mask. Which demonstrates how one of the most important aspects of Noh theater is actually *atmosphere*.

“Voice,” if anything, is *all* about intense atmosphere. Combining the melodic abilities of the flute, the performer’s voice, as well as percussion to thoroughly emphasize an eerie atmosphere. Using text in French and English, the ‘plot’ is as so:

> “Qui va la? Qui que tu sois, parle, transparence!”
>
> “Who goes there? Speak, transparence, whoever you are!”

Weinberg held us completely throughout the piece. Moving his head along with the flute, Weinberg appeared to embody the character and accompaniment in one. Then of course there was the overall ‘space’ in the piece. Described as the Japanese word “Ma,” Weinberg explained that space, and silence, were very essential in Noh theater — used to further emphasize and express the overall atmosphere of the production.

Joshua Weinberg was truly amazing and his performance remarkable. Even more importantly though, he created a space of difference. A room where music of composers that I have never heard of before — now their memory is *alive*. Alive for me to learn and listen to, and further engage with the music of *today.*

Expressions and exposure

Lydia Panas portraits explore femininity, nature, and communication

By Chloe Gravereaux
Editor-in-Chief

A woman with a tube of lipstick stared out of the projection screen at the crowd in the recital hall. She began applying lipstick, using the camera like a mirror as she dragged her the cometic from the corner of her mouth to the other, then up and around her top lip, then down and around her bottom lip. She continued, going around and around her mouth, as the coat around her lips grew thicker and thicker, the woman pushing hard into the flesh of her lip. The lipstick grew warm from the friction and crumbled into a clump on the side of the tube. She closed her eyes, pressed the clump between the tube and her lips once more, then opened them, daring the watcher to break eye contact.

Lydia Panas stopped the video at that point. “That’s enough for now.”

This was the second video clip Panas, a renowned photographer, a lecturer at Muhlenberg and one of the artists currently on display in Martin Art Gallery, shared with the audience at her talk on Wednesday, Mar. 27. Panas was born in the U.S. by chance, to Greecian immigrant doctors, and didn’t speak English until she was well past five. She believes this delay in language is how she learned to watch people so closely.

Panas took the audience on a tour of her diverse portfolio, which features a blend of portraits and still lifes on simple backgrounds. She draws inspiration from renaissance paintings and humans’ relationship to the natural world, and combines it with her own subconscious interests. Most of her images are captured outdoors in golden sunlight with a soft focus, or inside on a dark and heavy backdrop.

She began her career in photography capturing images on film of her own children in natural landscapes. One photo she showed featured a little girl, sevenish, sitting on a pile of smooth stones, wearing a few across her collarbone like a necklace. During this point in her life, said Panas. Panas found herself searching for the spirit of her deceased Greek father in the landscapes of Greece. This photo was taken on one of those beaches.

As her children grew older, Panas moved onto taking still lifes of chocolate, hair from her hairbrush and dryer lint, which represent aging and desire.

“These collections related to time passing, work around the house, fears and desires,” said Panas. “They were symbolic of what we discard and what we lose as a result. As markers of time, the images recall what falls away and what is gained.”

She then photographed portraits where individuals held food in their hands against a heavy, dark cloth background. The colors are reminiscent of renaissance feast paintings, and are meant to suggest a juxtaposition between humans and food.

Her next collection, “Something Like Love” featured groups of families, sisters, and friends, standing outside in a stringy, planted background in soft light. The groups stood together, not touching, not smiling, each staring the camera on its own. Panas quoted author Zadie Smith, who visited campus last semester, to explain this set of portraits.

“Within a family, everyone’s truths are different,” said Panas, quoting Smith. “And those truths battle each other.”

Her next collection featured photographed tarps on a clothesline. She called this collection “portraits of a ghost,” for her father’s passing.

One of the last collections she went into, “Promise Land,” featured women and girls of all ages and races wearing purposefully smudged makeup.

“These studio portraits of women of varying ages feature smears, stains, and spills that act as metaphors for what we wish to conceal but cannot suppress,” said Panas on her website.

Due to the spotlight on femininity and gender in her works, professors of english, art and gender studies held a panel on Panas’ work called: “Feminist Perspectives: Sex and Gender in the Creative Economy and Beyond,” on Mar. 12.

Panas’ latest collection, Sleeping Beauty, is currently on display in the Martin Art Gallery until April 13.

“I explore the roles of power and trust on both sides of the camera, paying attention to what I bring to the photographic encounter.” said Panas of the collection. “ I want to describe what it feels like to be a woman, to be human, by experiencing fully the range of emotions we have the capacity to feel.”

Photo Courtesy of Office of Communications

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

Happiness Crisis

The United Nations recently released its seventh annual Happiness Report, an extensive look into measurable factors that individuals in countries across the world need to be happy. One entire chapter of the report is dedicated to screen time, especially in the U.S.

"In short, adolescents who spend more time on electronic devices are less happy, and adolescents who spend more time on most other activities are happier," Jean M. Twenge told the Washington Post. "Digital media may have an indirect effect on happiness as it displaces time that could be otherwise spent on more beneficial activities."

On its own, perhaps it isn't surprising. Time spent on social media does lower self image, as many studies have found, since what is posted online is often a perfect facade. That being said, the reason the U.S. has declined in happiness in the last four years can't solely be blamed on too much social media.

Parents can't send their children to school safely. There have been so many mass shootings (69 this year, to be exact) that there was a commodity, briefly, for bulletproof backpacks. An eight-year-old girl told her mom that she couldn't wear her light up shoes to school because, in the case of an active shooter, her shoes would give away her location.

Those who survive are often broken beyond repair. One year later, two survivors of the Parkland school shooting committed suicide, as did a parent of one of the children.

Average teens are under so much duress that many of them experience the same amount of anxiety that in the 1950s would have put an individual in a mental hospital, said Psychology Today. Yes - teens are experiencing rates of anxiety that, when our grandparents were our age, they would need to be institutionalized for. This stress comes from anything from preparation for college- scholarships, AP classes, intense athletic practices, part-time jobs to pay bills. Yet, they can still come up short.

Higher education has become outrageously costly. Our current Editor-in-Chief had to work three jobs (two under the table) totaling 40 hours a week over the summer, at a rate above minimum wage, to pay for half a year of her housing. This doesn't include, or even begin to touch, the cost of tuition, or her student loan debt, which research shows is just growing.

"Student loan debt is now the second highest consumer debt category - behind only mortgage debt - and higher than both credit cards and auto loans," reported finance reporter Zack Friedman in an article for Forbes.

"More than 44 million borrowers... collectively owe $1.5 trillion in student loan debt in the U.S. alone," continued Friedman, citing statistics from Make Lemonade in 2018.

Yet, a college degree is becoming all but required in any non-service-industry job.

But once that job is obtained, hustle culture or the belief that one should not just enjoy "crunch time" but always be on crunch time, has burned out a generation of workers, leaving them unable to and often uninterested in recreation, and in turn burning out that industry with lack of demand. Simply getting to adulthood is becoming a survival of the fittest.

On top of the quotidian demands of school and work, individuals are going bankrupt paying medical bills to keep themselves alive. Healthcare cost online reported that the cost of treating Type 1 diabetes - which people are born with - increased from $12,467 in 2012 to $18,494 in 2016. Epipens have become so expensive people are buying them in Canada and shipping them to the U.S. Diseases that had, at one point, been eradicated by vaccines are making a comeback.

If social media has done anything, it has created an awareness of these problems, and a community of young adults experiencing the same difficulties. It's often taken on a humorous, or cutesy name, like #adulting. But social media has also been used to take action, as well.

#MeToo has drawn attention to violence against women, and created a community of support. The teens from Parkland organized a nationwide march to Washington entirely through social media. In short, it helps kids feel like a part of something bigger.

The Huffington Post reported that teens may have smaller in-person friend networks, but social media prevents them from feeling lonely. As a matter of fact, it makes them feel connected to others. Social media, and the internet in general, offers a kid with only a device and some wifi access to a whole community of support and resources.

In the end, perhaps social media is simply like any other invention- bringing only a change in habits that is equal parts happy and sad.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

Jarrett Azar / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Another birthday in the wind

By Will Wamser
Op/Ed Editor

It was my birthday this past week and something must be said for the egregious way I was treated by the Muhlenberg community and the community of my friends. I couldn't be angrier. My birthday is open to the public on Facebook.com, if any of you care to find it, and yet I only received 25 posts wishing me a happy birthday this year. I have 417 Facebook friends, I remember a time when that meant something. This is the first year where there was no red carpet, no grand parade, just a postcard from the office of admissions reminding me that they are the only ones who really care and you better believe I'm pissed. I deserve so much more than that. But it isn't just my lay about lackadaisical so-called friends, if you can even call them that, it's also you.

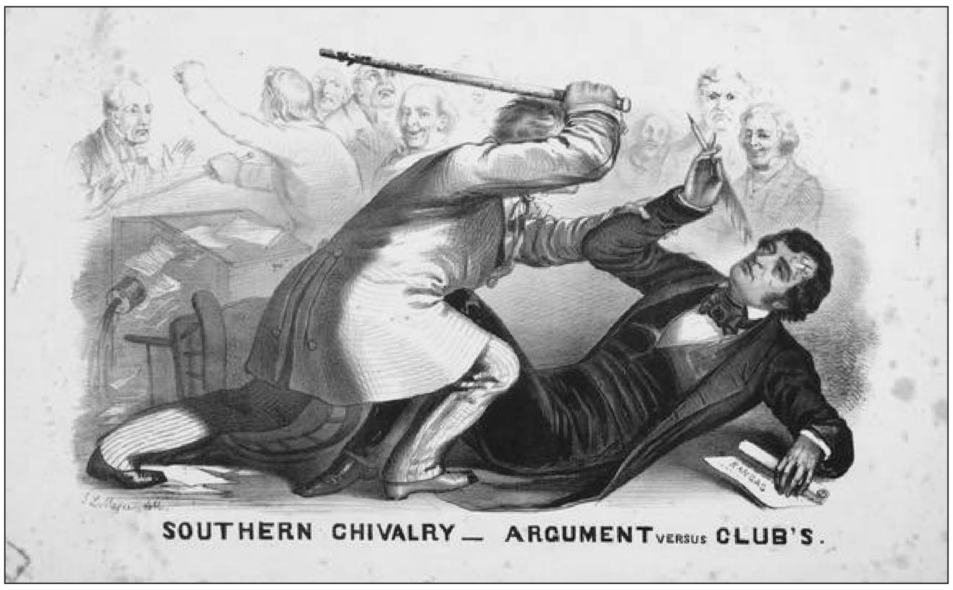
The Muhlenberg community is built on the understanding of kindness. We open doors, but it appears that's all we do as I received no recognition on my birthday. I wore one of those birthday cone hats for the entire day of my birth and the most I got from a stranger was a "please sir stop yelling, I'm going to have to ask you to leave," how is that for he's a jolly good fellow? Any celebrations I did receive were immediately overshadowed by those celebrating the likes of Eddie Murphy, Jane Goodall and Zach Liss. You, the reader and the community, didn't do enough for me.

When I was a kid, my birthday was MY day. All eyes were on me and I could do no wrong. It was my party and I cried because I wanted to. Sixty to 70 children I couldn't care less about would bombard my house with gifts and praise for a whole day, all for me. I would dance, I would scream, I would cry and they would all cheer. Those were the best days of my life. But that time in my life is done and gone according to you. This year my tears went unkempt, my screams went unrequited and my dance went unaccepted. Each day I become more anonymous as my day becomes less and less of mine with each year, I am finally an adult and I deserve to be treated as such.

I just want to return to those days, when I mattered. I have no skills, I have no heart, I have no time, but I do have my birthday. My birthday is all I have to make me special. I'm not asking for much, just one day out of the year. One day for everyone to put their phones down and raise their arms in celebration of me. I know it may seem that I am making a big deal of something childish and immature, but is that such a bad thing in our world? Every day is another reminder that we have no power as the world is dying, cash is king and Rob Schneider is doing well. The systems in place serve to benefit those at the top and our only defense is supporting each other, reminding each other that we do matter and we are valued and we can do something, anything with support. Those in power attempt to take everyone else's power, to make them think that they are less than and don't matter, to take their humanity. But I am a human and I do matter. I was born and I was born on a day. April 3rd 1998. To celebrate a birthday is not to pat someone on the back for surviving, but instead to shove our humanity and our voice into the faces of our oppressors. I celebrate in defiance. So, it actually really sucks of you that nobody gave me presents and you better keep that in mind for next year.

Glitter in the face of civility

By Melissa Reph
Online Content Editor


SOUTHERN CHIVALRY — ARGUMENT versus CLUB'S.

Political cartoon published following the Sumner Caning in 1856.

In the wee hours of the morning on St. Patrick's Day, President Trump tapped out some tweets that, as usual, made headlines. Bashing *Saturday Night Live* for their impressions of him and commentary on the current administration, the tweets culminated in the usual claims of "Fake News" and questioned if the show should be investigated by the FCC.

It seems like these days half the news cycle is the president complaining about being mistreated by the media and in the wake of this, Americans seem to constantly question where civility and respectability have disappeared to in the realm of politics. I question where people got the notion that politics have ever been civil or respectful to begin with.

Historically, political feuds date back to our country's founding with one of the most famous being between Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson. The line "pissed him off until we had a two-party system" from *Hamilton* is no exaggeration. The two men founded the original American political parties to counteract the others' views, bad mouthed each other to President Washington and even went so far as taking the rivalry public by having newspapers print satirical pieces on one another.

While famous, Jefferson and Hamilton's interactions are mild in comparison to some political disputes. A particularly memorable occasion involves literal blood on the Senate floor.

In the buildup to the Civil War the American political scene was in chaos around debates about whether new states should be admitted to the Union as slave or free. As a part of one of these debates Senator Charles Sumner, an abolitionist from Massachusetts, referred to two pro-slavery senators respectively as a "noise-some, squat, and nameless animal . . . not a proper model for an American senator" and to be taking "a mistress . . . who, though ugly to others, is always lovely to him; though polluted in the sight of the world, is chaste in his sight — I mean the harlot, Slavery." The latter described senator was from South Carolina, the same state as Representative Preston Brooks who took offense to Sumner's remarks on the the senator's behalf. Brooks decided to take retribution into his own hands and proceeded to beat Sumner in the head with a metal topped cane once the Senate had adjourned for the day.

The Sumner Caning is the clearest example of American politics being anything but civil or respectful. It's undeniable that this event was violent, rude, unnecessary and inherently political. Being attacked on the Senate floor and having to be carried out bleeding? For mocking your political opponents? Modern politics are tame in comparison.

Now you might want to argue that these are politicians attacking each other rather than members of the American public attacking politicians, yet there's historical precedence for that too. Though, modern society may not view these as attacks through lens of a history class, that was undeniably their original purpose.

The Great Depression saw the direct action of World War I veterans and their families as the "Bonus Army" flooded Washington, D.C. demanding the government immediately pay in full their promised pensions. The group camped for weeks, protesting and near-rioting eventually ending when President Hoover set the U.S. army on them, injuring many and killing one during the chaos. The Bonus Army remained in D.C. for the sole purpose of putting pressure on politicians to pay what they were promised for their service in WWI. Though the event ended in violence, the protestors themselves were inherently nonviolent and had strict rules dictating behavior.

Exercising the First Amendment right to assembly and peaceful protests have gone hand in hand. Yet, like the Bonus Army, each one of these is a direct attack on the American government by the American people. If you find the Bonus Army example lacking, then I point you to the Civil Rights Movement and the Vietnam War Protests.

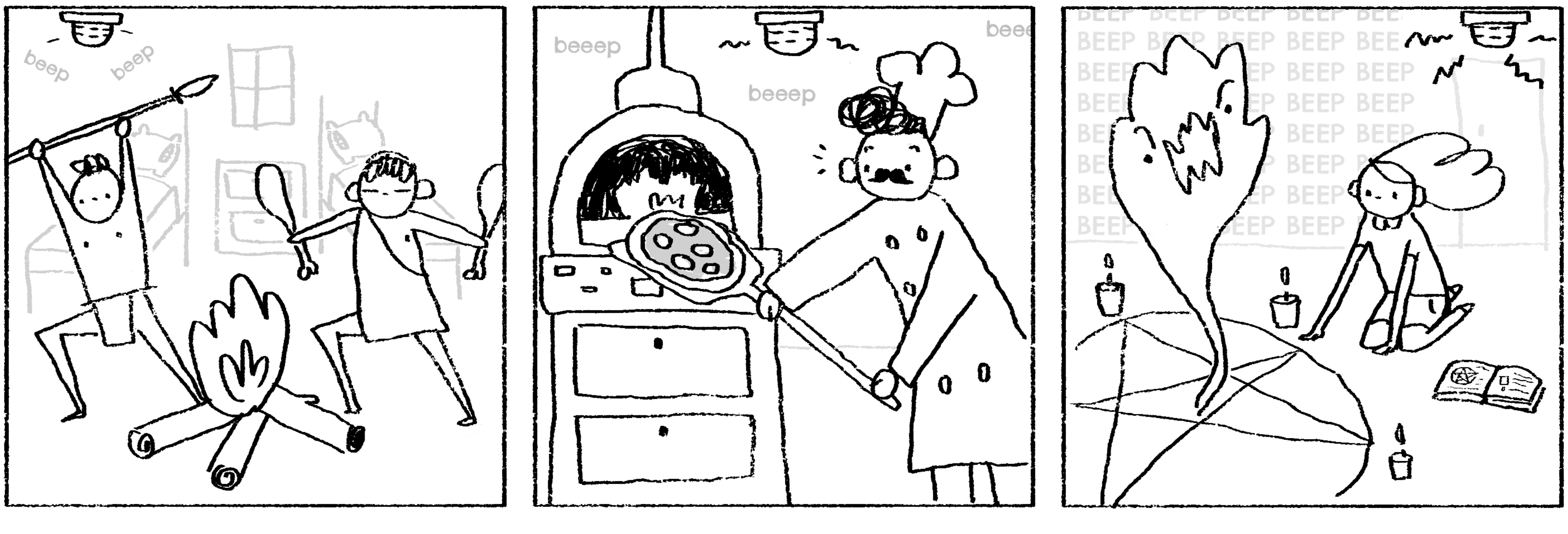
The First Amendment's protections extend to another historical practice of political attacks that has carried through to modern day. The tried and true political cartoon. These satirical takes on everything from policies to the politicians behind them have been, arguably, on level with some of the brawls that have happened within Congress.

Newspapers and the artists behind the cartoons have been using the images to point out flaws and falsities as well as note actions that Americans have not necessarily agreed with for centuries. From the "King Andrew the First" cartoon critiquing Andrew Jackson's expansion of presidential power and making him out to be a tyrant on the level of King George III to "The Big Stick in the Caribbean" that questions Theodore Roosevelt's "speak softly and carry a big stick" approach to foreign policy. These cartoons were the precursors to modern political satires like *Saturday Night Live*.

Like satire itself, politicians complaining about satire is nothing new. The Supreme Court ruled on satire in 1988 in *Hustler Magazine v. Falwell* pointing to the history of political cartoons as precedence and the Rehnquist Opinion stating "[a]t the heart of the First Amendment is the recognition of the fundamental importance of the free flow of ideas and opinions on matters of public interest and concern." Proving that satire is protected under the First Amendment as a form of political speech.

Saturday Night Live has been categorized as a satirical show for years, and its political cold opens are undeniably political satire which has been proven to be protected. So worry not *SNL* fans as it's not only the show's right to continue their critiques, but in the tradition of their illustrated forefathers their duty. Politics has never been the polite disagreement of ideas that people like to pose it as. So you have every right to complain about politicians and policies. You even have the right to send envelopes full of glitter to those you find having particular failings should you wish. (Just note that the practice of political glitter protests can be considered assault and battery should someone get injured.) Should you choose this form of dissent, there are websites that will send the envelopes anonymously. If anything in the grand tradition you might argue that glittering is your duty as an active part of democracy.

we burnt our popcorn, i swear
by jessica bensimhon



Muhlenberg joins distinguished company

By Noah Brill
Contributing Writer

The athletic department at Muhlenberg was recently granted membership into Chi Alpha Sigma, the prestigious National College Athlete Honor Society. This is not only of large significance to student athletes, but to the community as a whole.

“Athletics continually strives to find ways to celebrate our student athletes accomplishments,” said Lynn Tubman, Muhlenberg’s Director of Athletics. “Chi Alpha Sigma is the first national scholar-athlete society to honor collegiate student athletes who have excelled in the classroom and in competition. We are excited that our many deserving student athletes will now be recognized as members of the honor society.”

The school’s inclusion in the society and the success of the student athletes in two critical domains of their college experience says great things not only about the athletic department and coaching staffs, but to Muhlenberg community as a collective. “Along with the many other chapters of national honor societies at Muhlenberg, it represents Muhlenberg's recognition of academic excellence at our institution. Muhlenberg College is acknowledging the many student athletes who have dedicated themselves to performing at a high level academically and in their respective sports. We couldn't be more excited for these deserving student athletes,” Tubman added.

Chi Sigma Alpha’s expansion onto Muhlenberg’s campus would not have been possible without the tireless effort of Lindsey Nagy, an Assistant Professor of Economics, who took on a key role as a liaison to the athletic department early in her career at Muhlenberg, effectively serving as their link to the academic element of the collegiate experience. “I am currently the Chair of the College Committee of Fitness and Athletics. CCFA is comprised of faculty, staff, and students. It was the student athletes on the committee that initiated the conversation about how to recognize student athletes at graduation. This prompted me to do some research, which is when we learned of the honors society. I met with Provost Harring and Dean Anderson to discuss the honors society and provide a rationale for Muhlenberg becoming a member. With their approval, I submitted the necessary paperwork to Chi Alpha Sigma.”

For Nagy, there is a tinge of personal significance to the addition, as collegiate athletics are something she cares about deeply, having played volleyball at Hood College in Maryland. “Having been a Division III athlete, I know the challenges student athletes face in balancing their commitment to their sport and to their academic pursuits.” Nagy also stressed the rigid schedules and grueling workloads that college athletes abide by, as they have to make immense time commitments year-round, often at the expense of other opportunities. “Practice and competition schedules can be extremely demanding of a student athlete's time. Many of Muhlenberg's student athletes have demonstrated exceptional academic achievement which speaks to their intellect, work ethic and drive to excel. The honor society will recognize and celebrate these highly motivated student athletes for the work they have done in the classroom and/or lab.”

Although the challenges of being a student athlete have long been documented, it often feels as if they are seldom recognized at the Division III level, as there is more emphasis on the classroom and athletes receive significantly less media attention than their Division I counterparts. Because of this, an honor society could enhance the experience even further as the acknowledgement could go a long way for the athletes, who work tenaciously in their pursuit of all of their endeavors in both domains with vim and vigor.

The addition of the honor society comes on the heels of many new developments from the athletic department, including Tubman’s installment as athletic director at the beginning of the academic year, the revamping of the website, and, of course, many accolades received by student athletes for their performances on the fields and in their academics.

Men’s Lacrosse splits first two conference matchups

A 1-1 record thus far in CC play, the Mules look to make minor tweaks and control the conference

By Brandon Kossin
Senior Staff Writer

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Mules following their match with FDU.

Muhlenberg Men’s lacrosse team concluded the 2018 season with an 11-7 overall record, and a less than stellar, 2-6 record within the highly competitive Centennial Conference. This year, the Mules look to improve upon their conference record, looking to utilize their young talent in combination with their upperclassman experience.

Thus far, the Mules have started out hot, going 7-1 in their first eight non conference matchups. As of last week, they began their long awaited Centennial Conference schedule. Their first game took place on the road at Haverford. The Mules came away with the 13-9 victory, a nice start to the stretch of CC games. Notably, James Dalimonte ‘22 led the charge, finishing the game with the team high in goals with five.

The Mules followed up the game by hosting the seventh ranked team in the country in Gettysburg. Unfortunately, the outcome of the game was not as the team had hoped. The Mules were handed a tough 11-10 loss to the nationally ranked rival, making them 1-1 in conference thus far. In the heartbreaking loss, Ethan Grossman ‘21 notched four goals, while James Dalimonte tacked on another three goals.

After the game, Joey Goret ‘21 and Stephen Chenworth ‘19 reflected upon the team’s recent performances and improvements that could be made to achieve better results.

Chenworth looked back at the issues faced against Gettysburg and compared them to those faced in conference play last year. “Last year we had a lot of injuries that hurt us in conference play, and thus far we are 1-1 with a single goal loss against the seventh ranked team in the entire country. I wouldn’t say that we have similar issues that we had last year. Every year our conference has multiple teams ranked in the top twenty and sometimes the top ten of Division III lacrosse. In order to win those big in-conference games, we have to play with a certain level of toughness, resilience, and heart. I think we’ve proven as a team that we can compete with anyone on any given day, and it really comes down to us showing up, executing the game plan that our coaches gave us, and as players, taking advantage and capitalizing on opportunities that are presented throughout each game.”

In addition to Chenworth, Goret stated, “In order to be more successful in conference we have to start games better, not allowing our opponents to rack up early goals where we find ourselves fighting a deficit the rest of the game.”

When looking back at the issues on the field against Gettysburg, Chenworth made it clear, “Gettysburg is a top ranked, super-talented team in D-II lacrosse. We came out with confidence and a good game plan to beat them, but came up one goal short. We needed to make just a couple more plays throughout the game.”

Goret was overall in agreement with Chenworth. “Gettysburg was an overall tremendous team effort and nearly a complete game on all sides of the ball. However, lapses in the first quarter and in the beginning of the second half held us back from gaining the lead and pulling away. Against a team as talented as Gettysburg there is little margin for error, and the difference in that game was missing a few critical plays that could have drastically changed the outcome.”

It is quite clear that the Muhlenberg Men’s lacrosse team is on the rise. Over the past few years the team has been rebuilt, and hoping to join its rivals as a powerhouse in the Centennial Conference and the nation as a whole. The season is far from over and the Mules are ready to take on their next opponent.

Chenworth, Goret, and the rest of the Mules remain in Allentown to take on Washington College on Friday, April 7.

Baseball's upperclassmen had the honor of choosing a walk up song, but the decision isn't so easy

By Samantha Brenner
Contributing Writer

An iconic walk up song is a tune that sounds in the time between a baseball player walking from the on-deck circle through their trek into the batter′s box, or during the time that a new pitcher entering the game is warming up on the pitcher's mound. For the Muhlenberg baseball team choosing their walk-ups is more of an art than a simple choice. They get to choose their own walk up song, and have it play during and before they face or throw that first pitch.

While these songs are fun to pick, they do help to lighten the mood during stressful situations.

Southpaw pitcher Jared Hildreth '20 is thankful that Head Coach, Tod Gross, allows them to pick their own signature walk up songs. "Luckily, here at Muhlenberg we are able to pick our own warm up and walk up song so that creates a wide variety of music genres that are played throughout the game," said Hildreth. It creates a sense of comfort and relaxation that does help during games.

> **"The walk up song must be something that has stamina, that creates a mood for the rest of the practice and the game."**

"For this season, I have picked Stick To The Plan by Big Sean. When I warm up on the mound the song plays right away," Hildreth '20 continued. "The reason I chose this song is because of the lyrics that follow the theme of determination and "sticking to the plan" as well as the beat that goes along with the song."

They use their songs to help motivate them, help push them to do better. For Hildreth, he looks at the walk up songs as a highlight of the practice and the game. "I think the best walk up songs are the ones in which help a person get into the zone and relax them for the competition. A song with a little swag doesn't hurt either."

The process of ultimately picking a song was definitely not. easy. "I didn't know what song I wanted before. I didn't go into it knowing what I wanted, Hildreth said, but he knew Stick To The Plan was the right one as soon as he heard it.

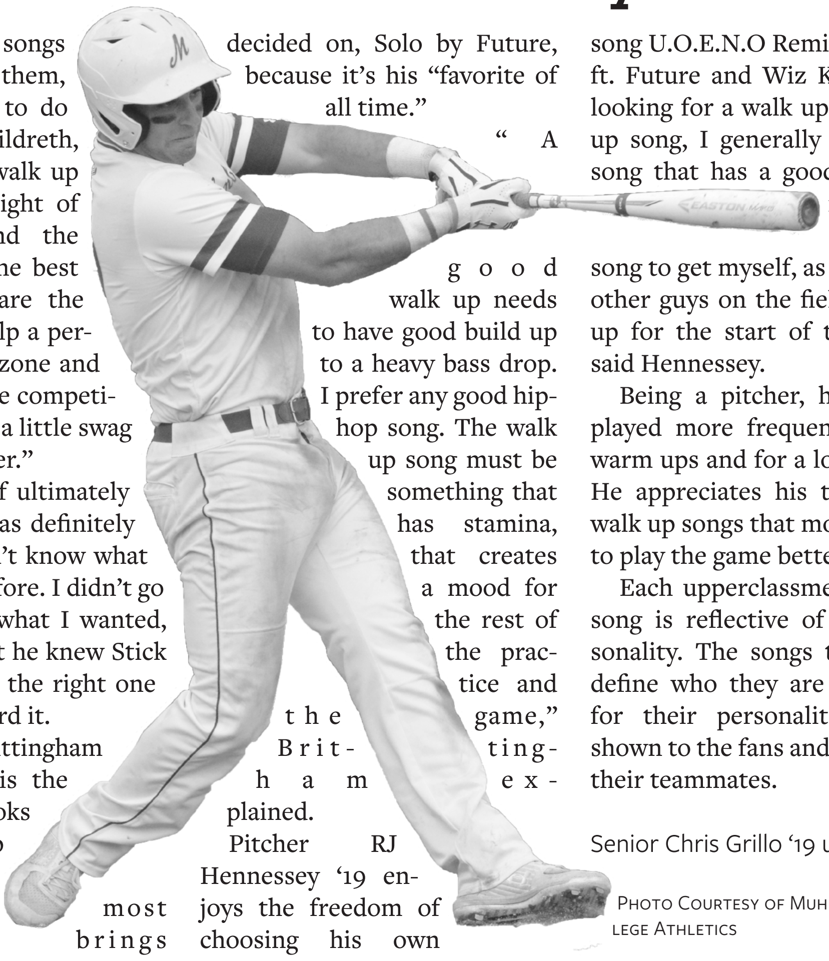
For Billy Brittingham '20, the theme is the same. He too looks for a walk up song that helps motivate, and most importantly, brings energy to the game. Brittingham decided on, Solo by Future, because it's his "favorite of all time."

"A good walk up needs to have good build up to a heavy bass drop. I prefer any good hip-hop song. The walk up song must be something that has stamina, that creates a mood for the rest of the practice and the game," the Brittingham explained.

Pitcher RJ Hennessey '19 enjoys the freedom of choosing his own walk up song, going with the song U.O.E.N.O Remix by Rocko ft. Future and Wiz Khalifa. "In looking for a walk up and warm up song, I generally look for a song that has a good beat and is a good pump up song to get myself, as well as the other guys on the field pumped up for the start of the game," said Hennessey.

Being a pitcher, his song is played more frequently during warm ups and for a longer time. He appreciates his teammates' walk up songs that motivate him to play the game better.

Each upperclassmen walk up song is reflective of their personality. The songs they chose define who they are and allow for their personalities to be shown to the fans and the rest of their teammates.



Senior Chris Grillo '19 up at bat.

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Athletics

Men's and Women's Golf teams tee off in Maryland

The Mules start off the season with strong performances, as both finish in the top three

By Alex Blum
Sports Editor

On Mar. 24, the men's and women's golf teams kicked off the spring season with the Revolutionary Collegiate Classic in Rising Sun, MD. The two day event had both squads facing off with six other schools and after a rather disappointing display in the fall, both teams put on a nice showing in the inaugural match of spring 2019.

The ladies closed out the tournament in third place behind only Jefferson and Drew, and second out of the four Division III schools that participated. Aine Filler '19 understands that although the first tournament may have been a little rough, there is still plenty of time improve scores even further.

"The first few rounds were chilly, but we performed pretty well despite the conditions. Honestly, I haven't done too many great things individually yet, but this was our first tournament, and there is still a lot of the season left. The future outlook for the rest of the season looks bright and I think we can get a few wins in before heading of to the Conference Championships at the end of April," said Filler.

On the men's side of the tournament, the Mules left Rising Sun in second place with Ben Lieberman '19 leading the way ending in second as well and a 154 total after 36 holes. The men beat out Centennial Conference rival in Ursinus, who concluded the tournament in fifth.

Filler is extremely excited about the potential her team has and is highly confident that they can go far this spring. "We have a lot of potential. We have a few younger players who are looking really solid and as long as we all continue to shoot well, I am confident that we will be a strong competitor throughout the season." Filler continued, "we have a newcomer on the team this season in Katie Chen and she is really committed to the sport. She has kind of reminded us all of why we love the sport; watching her get excited about golf makes us excited" Filler added.

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Aine Filler '19 locks and loads, ready to drive the ball.

Since the opening tournament, the women wrapped up their second of the season, the Alvernia Invitational, where they came in seventh in a field of eight, while the men have since finished two additional invitationals at 13th and third places respectively.

The spring season is in full swing and both squads are eager to compete and show off their tremendous potential.

Coming up this week in
SPORTS
April 5 through April 6

Baseball

Muhlenberg
vs
Haverford

Friday, Apr. 5 @ 3:30 pm
Haverford, Pa.

Men's Lacrosse

Muhlenberg
vs
Washington

Friday, Apr. 5 @ 7:00 pm
Scotty Wood Stadium

Track and Field

Muhlenberg
Invitational

Saturday, Apr. 6
Scotty Wood Stadium

Club hockey comeback?

Alyssa Hertel / The Muhlenberg Weekly

By Alex Blum
Sports Editor

In the blink of eye, it was all a thing of the past. The sport they loved and the team they had dedicated hours upon hours for came to a crashing halt as the only Division II club on the Muhlenberg campus was formally dismantled. With the combination of Ken Latteman, former bench boss, resigning only weeks prior to reporting to school, his replacement, Howard Unrue, taking over the job, and with the lack of college backing, Muhlenberg club hockey could no longer stay on its feet. However, almost a year and a half after the club's unfortunate ceasing, the program could be making its way back as talks between former players and Athletic Director, Lynn Tubman, have been extremely productive.

The situation that ultimately led to the dissolving of the ice hockey team has certainly had an enormous impact on the loyal and committed group of players who gave Muhlenberg hockey their heart and soul and had so much fun doing so. Having been promised hockey even before they had stepped onto the college scene, a nd then being left with nothing has most definitely left a stain on the entire college athletics experience for some former Mule hockey players.

"Absolutely," said Henry Mette '19. "One of the reasons I came to Muhlenberg was that I knew I was going to play hockey, and I thought it was going to be for all four years. When I spoke to the coach before coming here, he made it seem like I was going to be involved with a competitive program and play meaningful hockey. Had I known where we would be right now, I most likely would not have come to Muhlenberg."

This feeling that Mette expressed is shared among his former teammate, Sam Amon '19. Amon expressed just how impacted the entire team's experience was. "It was especially disappointing because all of the players on the team would have not attended school here if there was no team at the time of their admission as they would have gone to a school that had a team. It definitely left a stain on not just mine, but all of our experiences," said Amon.

Although their dreams of being a collegiate athlete were cut short, the two men have no resentment towards Muhlenberg Athletics, formerly headed by Corey Goff. Both Mette and Amon remember where they first placed the blame and where it actually lied. "At first, we were upset with the athletic director, but later talks have resolved those issues. If any resentment is had, it's for our old coach. I'll admit that he was given a lot in a short amount of time, but he did a terrible job of rising to the occasion," Mette said.

Amon agreed with his fellow Mule saying, "I had some (resentment) at the time the team was dismantled, and that was largely due to a lack of communication. We have since talked with Muhlenberg Athletics to clarify the downfall of the team and this made most of my resentment go away. The resentment I do have is towards our former coach."

However, it is not the end of the road for Muhlenberg hockey as very recently discussions have been held surrounding the possible return of the club sport. Tubman, in just her first few months at the helm, has witnessed and has been active in the efforts to revitalize the program that got its start way back in 1969 under the leadership of Bill Bilinkas '73 and Lyle Allan '73. "There is an active club ice hockey alumni base, and they have expressed interest in assisting the re-establishment of club ice hockey, and we have been in communication with them this past fall and spring," Tubman said.

Also active in these productive meetings are the four passionate former players that still remain. Leading the charge to get the ball rolling was Amon himself.

"I initially contacted Muhlenberg's Athletic Director Lynn Tubman at the end of the fall semester. I and the three other former players met with her, her assistant, and the head of clubs and organizations at the beginning of this semester and then again after Spring Break to create a potential budget for the program," Amon said.

The next in the process is to see, "what interest there is from current and admitted students to possibly bring back the club next year," according to Amon.

Tubman praised Amon, Mette, and other guys for their drive and enthusiasm during these talks. "They have been very motivated, and responsive in taking proactive steps in exploring the revitalization of club ice hockey at Muhlenberg."

Despite the fact, that Mette and Amon will not get the chance to play hockey for Muhlenberg again, they are committed to providing others with the incredible opportunity. "Even though I won't get to play it, I want club hockey back here so much because I know how much the game means to people. Before the talks started, I planned on being completely uninvolved with the school as an alum. If it were to make a return, it would give me reason to be involved with the school after graduating," said Mette.

Amon understands as well that hockey has a special place in people's hearts, like it does for him, within the Muhlenberg community. "Even though I don't have the chance to play, it would give future Muhlenberg students the opportunity to continue to play the sport they love. This would only enhance their Muhlenberg experience."

As soon as Fall 2019, club Ice Hockey could be back at Muhlenberg. With players who are so dedicated to the game of hockey and its future like Sam Amon, Henry Mette, and the other former Mules, Hockey can certainly make its return and stay for years long after they are gone.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Music ensemble trilogy warms up the weekend

read more on 6

Cole Geissler / The Muhlenberg Weekly

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NEWS

Two SGA Presidential candidates, Andrew Braun and Jonathan Diaz, share their insights for improving student engagement in addition to SGA transparency.

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A&C

Comedian and Netflix star JR De Guzman makes a small audience laugh to his jokes about audience members and from new knowledge he gained about Muhlenberg College, itself.

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OP/ED

After Lieutenant Governor Fetterman visited to talk about the legalization of medical cannabis, the editorial board comments on how we talk about and listen to issues surrounding cannabis.

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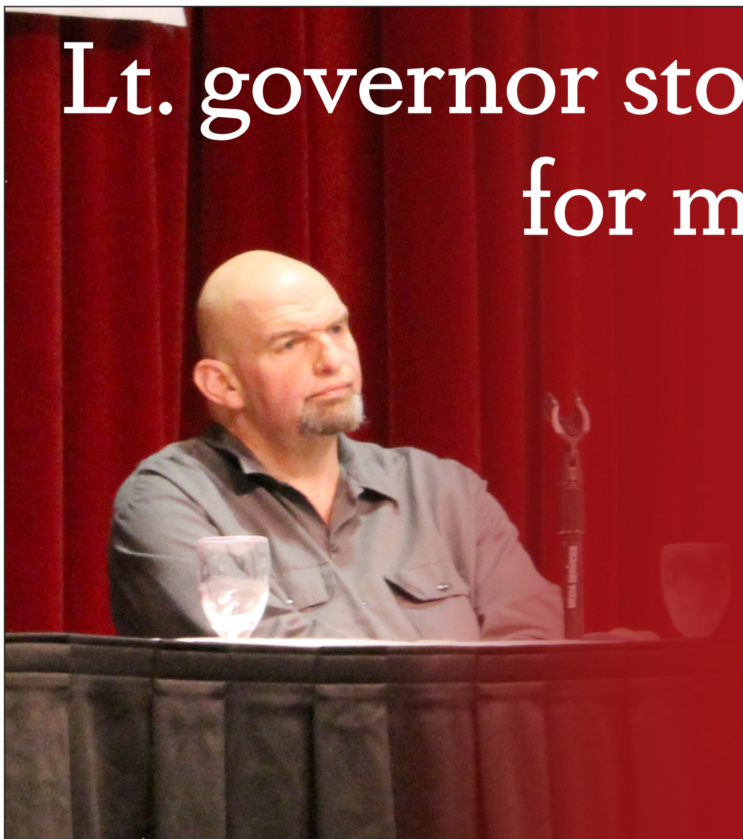
Photo Courtesy of Athletics

SPORTS

Aine Filler '19 added to her distinguished collegiate career, shooting an 81 to win the Susquehanna Invitational over the weekend.

read more on 10

Lt. governor stops at Muhlenberg for marijuana dialogue



Melissa Reph / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Lt. Governor Fetterman listens to Allentown community members at listening tour.

By Melissa Reph
Online Content Editor

Muhlenberg College hosted the thirty-first stop in Lt. Gov. John Fetterman's statewide tour on Saturday, Apr. 6. Fetterman has been travelling county by county to hear constituents' opinions on the topic of cannabis legalization.

"I think it's great to be in the same room with people that may or may not agree with you on any single view," opened Fetterman. This set the tone for a forum of open and respectful dialogue, where citizens did the talking and lawmakers kept quiet and listened.

The tour is designed to allow Pennsylvania citizens to give direct feedback as the state looks at the possibility of designing new legislature around legalizing recreational cannabis, a topic of discussion since the legalization of medical marijuana in 2016.

In an interview with The Weekly, Fetterman emphasized that he is on a listening tour of the state to hear people's views and concerns

see **Marijuana** page 4

Dude, where's my car?

It is easy to forget where you park at Muhlenberg... if you can find a space at all

By Matt Riebesell
Managing Editor

Makenzie O'Brien '19 is in the driver's seat of her 2013 smoky blue Nissan Altima rolling down Allentown's Albright Street. She is making her daily commute to Muhlenberg's campus, which isn't usually a trek, but the Ace-Bandage-wrapped boot she wears on her sprained left foot makes crutching the half mile to the New Science building an aggravating feat.

"Even though the parking lot isn't all the way to where I need to end up on campus I would still rather drive the couple of blocks to try and find a space than get sweaty and tired on my crutches," says O'Brien.

She hopes turning right on 23rd Street and left into the parking lot of Martin Luther Hall will hopefully result in the shortest possible hobble to class.

No free spaces.

"You can pretty much park in ML or by Robinson and often there are few spots in both of those places," says O'Brien. "Everywhere else is as far as the off-campus apartments."

There are 1,032 parking spots on our campus. They are filled by visitors, and the 1,275 students, faculty, and staff who have permits to legally park in designated lots according to Kevin Kennedy, a campus safety officer. The scattered spaces include about 588 spots designated for faculty and staff, 325 for students, plus a few for visitors, SODEXO employees, and handicapped access. But even with over 1,000 spaces for our relatively small 82 acre campus, local residents, students, faculty, staff, visitors and others find themselves in a daily battle for an often elusive (and legal) parking space.

Parking permits at Muhlenberg vary in price depending on the drivers′ position at the college. Each August, during the first week of classes faculty and staff, senior scholars, residential advisors, and presidential assistants register their vehicles online. Employee parking permits are free while students pay $55 for the school year.

This fee is small in comparison to other colleges and universities. At Penn State, students must pay $640 for a two semester pass, and students who want the same permit at Lehigh must

Chloe Gravereaux / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Many students struggle to find parking on campus.

dish out $420, according to the schools' parking authority websites. Outside of Pa., students at the University of Delaware must pay $600 for a year-long parking pass. Although priced comparatively low, many Muhlenberg students might wonder how the college allows drivers to pay for permission to park in a lot when there are more permits than spaces available.

"I am not paying for the privilege to park, I am paying for the chance to park," says Skyler Petrie '21. "And there is an even slimmer chance that I will actually get a spot in the lot that is closest to where I am going."

Faculty of the college are less likely to grumble about the parking woes on campus due to a collaborative effort between the mathematics department, the provost's office, campus safety and the Office of the President. The project, led by Dr. Allison Davidson — an assistant professor in the math department — has resulted in an organized parking arrangement for the college's faculty.

"I was approached because of my background of being a statistician, but we did not actually use statistics to do this project," Davidson explained. "We asked some questions: Are there

see **Parking** page 4

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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The Muhlenberg Weekly strives for accuracy in reporting and writing, but we acknowledge that mistakes happen. Readers are invited to submit corrections about errors in articles, and they should be submitted to weeklyeditor@gmail.com. Corrections are also brought to our staff's attention by our own editors and writers. Our staff will review the suggested correction, consult with the author of the article, and issue the appropriate correction. Online corrections are located at the bottom of the article. Print corrections are located within the paper, on the page indicated in the online edition. However, The Weekly does not grant take-down requests for articles.

ADVERTISING POLICY

We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

Monday, April 1
Sick student - 12:50 a.m.
Report of sick student at the Village. Student was transported to the hospital by campus safety.

Vandalism - 7:59 a.m.
Report of damage to stainless steel in elevator in Walz Hall. No suspects at this time.

Parking violation - 10:54 a.m.
Report of illegally parked vehicle at the CA. Vehicle booted by campus safety.

Tuesday, April 2
Found property - 4:00 a.m.
Report of found debit car at Seegers Union. Message left with owner to pick it up at campus safety.

Burglary - 9:00 a.m.
Report of money stolen from Martin Luther Hall. Investigation to continue.

Wednesday, April 3
Theft - 3:00 p.m.
Report of shoe theft at Prosser Hall. Investigation to continue.

Thursday, April 4
Found money - 1:40 a.m.
Report of found money at Seegers Union. Message left for owner to retrieve at campus safety office.

Sick student - 8:30 p.m.
Report of sick student at Shankweilier. Student refused further treatment or transport.

Injured student - 9:30 p.m.
Report of injured student at Seegers Union. Muhlenberg EMS responded but student refused further treatment or transport.

Friday, April 5
Noise complaint - 12:45 a.m.
Noise complaint reported at undisclosed street. Residents spoken to, advised and complied.

Parking violation - 8:44 a.m.
Report of vehicle parked illegally at CFA North. Vehicle booted by campus safety.

Parking violation - 9:04 a.m.
Report of vehicle parked illegally at CFA North. Vehicle booted by campus safety.

Theft - 6:00 p.m.
Report of theft of shoes at Trexler Pavilion. Investigation to continue.

Theft - 6:00 p.m.
Report of theft of phone at Trexler Pavilion. Investigation to continue.

Theft - 7:30 p.m.
Report of theft of phone and cards at Trexler Pavilion. Investigation to continue.

Found property - 10:15 p.m.
Report of found ring in Trexler Library. Ring was placed in lost and found locker.

Saturday, April 6
Suspicious activity - 1:55 a.m.
Report of suspicious activity in Seegers Union. Area checked and nothing could be noted.

Fire alarm - 9:01 p.m.
Report of fire alarm in Brown Hall from cooking. System silenced and reset.

Alcohol violation - 9:38 p.m.
Report of alcohol violation at Walz Hall. Individuals identified and spoken to.

Sunday, April 7
Alcohol violation -12:54 a.m.
Report of alcohol violation at Seegers Union. Student identified and transported to hospital by campus safety officer.

Muhlenberg's
Commencement
Luncheon 2019

to order:

Purchase your tickets by this **Friday, April 12th**
to take advantage of the early discount! After Friday, the
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Link also available on instagram.com/bergdining

Get to know your SGA presidential candidates part two:

Interviews with Andrew Braun and John Diaz

By Laura Schwarz
Asst. News Editor

The Weekly published part one of these interviews with SGA Presidential candidates, Nicholas Gregg-Rubin and Stephanie Ng in last week’s issue.

On Apr. 15, students will vote for their SGA president and representatives for the 2019-2020 academic term. Along with the 28 students running for representative positions, Andrew Braun ‘20, Jonathan Diaz ‘20, Nicholas Gregg-Rubingh ‘20, and Stephanie Ng ‘20 are vying for the spot of president, set to replace current SGA president, Karlee Makely ’19.

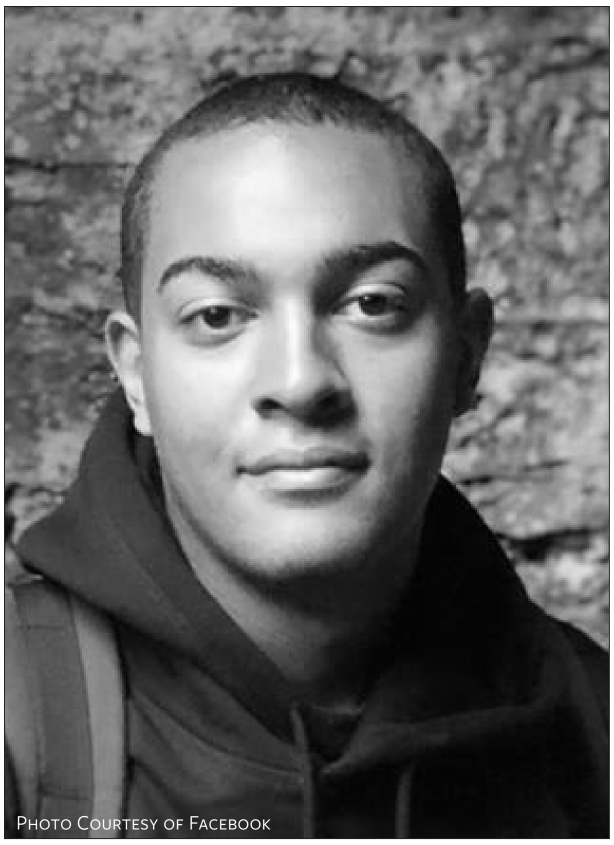


Photo Courtesy of Facebook

Jonathan Diaz ‘20 is hoping to boost morale on campus.

The Muhlenberg Weekly sat down with two presidential candidates to hear their goals, plans, and hopes for the future of SGA and Muhlenberg.

The Muhlenberg Weekly: *What sets you apart from the other two candidates?*

Andrew Braun: “I think we could all do the position. I just know with me, I have a strength in being able to communicate with different parties with different agendas. Obviously in past cases sometimes the students' agendas have not been in agreement with the administration and we've seen some change that a lot of people are upset about, but we just have to deal with it. I think I can create more of a symbiotic relationship between the two parties. Ultimately there hasn't really been the engagement SGA needs to get any type of issue across the administration. While the SGA might have a ton of money at their disposal which you would think give them bargaining power, they don't really have the full support of students behind them [so] they're not going to be able to get anything meaningful done and they're not going have any bargaining chips at the school.”

Jonathan Diaz: “I think what sets me apart is that I have a large network. I work at the Multicultural Center so I know the majority of people of color on campus along with being a part of Greek life so I know the other 20 percent of the people on campus. On top of that I have friends from all over from the theater department [and] from the sciences so I have a good grasp of what the student body is like, and I feel like if you're going to have someone who represents the school you should have someone who knows the school to a certain extent.”

TMW: *What is one central improvement that you would focus on as president?*

AB: “I think it has to really be with the way SGA perceives itself [in order] to get any issue tackled so that would be basically my first goal, to actually get the students behind the SGA. I see it could be a really great outlet for us to get our needs across to the administration rather than where I think we are now. If you think of politics, we are like the student party, but we're not unified in our voice.”

JD: “I think my main focus, which is pretty [broad], is I've noticed that morale and event attendance has been low on campus, so I feel like I want to aim and focus on that and see what's happening and see if we can boost morale on campus somehow.”

“I think if the system was laid out correctly there would never be a case where people would be underrepresented.”

TMW: *What do you think about SGA’s new constituency program? Has it improved transparency and communication with students? How would you continue or not continue the program as president?*

AB: “I think one of the hardest things to do at Muhlenberg is to get the Muhlenberg students to do anything, because honestly we're all worked to the bone in our classes. Nobody has spare time for anything, so a lot of times, when we get an email that we have to attend something it's almost like an insult to us, it's like 'I've given enough of my time'. As a full time student you're working over 40, 50, 60 hours a week with studying so when somebody wants you to come in for anything to give your opinion or do a survey, you don't want to do it generally. It's hard, people are overworked and they want to honestly relax, so I think it's a struggle to really get the engagement that it's seeks. SGA can always improve to better that communication, it’s not an easy job.”

JD: “I personally really like this constituency program, because one thing SGA wants is to be more visible on campus and to show that 'hey we're here [and] we're not just the bank,' so I am all for it. I think it does need some improvements I'd say in terms of setting more events ahead of time and just getting anyone together.”

TMW: *A lot of students seem to only interact with SGA to get funding for clubs or organizations. How would you maybe improve this process and make the interactions more than just about funding?*

AB: “I mean obviously the student organizations need funding to just run their day-to-day activities, but it kind of stinks in the sense that, that's all they're really viewed as right now, and I think it's because there isn't enough engagement across the board. So the only thing that's going to strengthen the government is believing in that government, and I'll be honest I have not been as engaged with the SGA as I wanted to be and I wondered why we haven't had this change and I've gone to SGA meetings just as a guest to see how they run themselves. I mean it's so hard, there are so many diverse groups. To unify them, I think that's the ultimate goal; what a student government should be doing.”

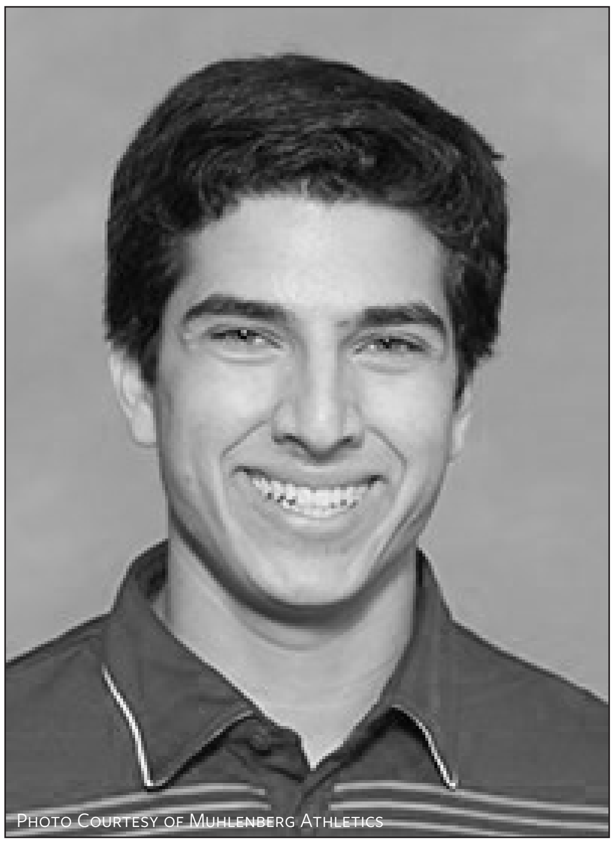


Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Andrew Braun ‘20 wants to improve SGA’s social media.

JD: “I think we need to strengthen our community engagement section and try to give out more surveys, try to figure out more about what the students want, because in order to solve an issue you have to survey to assess if there is an issue and then fix it. I think we need to improve our student outreach and say, 'Hey, we're not just the bank, [and] if you want something in all other aspects, we're also here.'”

“I’ve noticed that morale and event attendance has been low on campus, so I feel like I want to aim and focus on that ...”

TMW: *Do you have any ideas or programs that you would implement to support marginalized students on campus?*

Braun explained his belief that, because student voices are under-heard in school administration and SGA in general, he wants to improve student representation overall, before focusing on a specific group.

AB: “I think if the system was laid out correctly there would never be a case where people would be underrepresented.”

JD: “I'd say just going back to what I was originally saying was just talk to them, figure out what's the root of the problem, find out what's making them feel like they don't have a place to belong and try to see if you can shape or do things that will bring them more into the community.”

TMW: *Would you like to see more student engagement with SGA and how could you improve engagement?*

AB:”I think that the best [way] would be a social media platform, some type of easy engagement. Twitter would be ideal, but I don't think the Twitter population is even on campus right now. It seems like Facebook would be also awesome, but I know a lot of the younger kids do not use Facebook so that really only leaves Instagram which would not be the best platform. If there could be a platform like that where it wouldn't be too excessive to use, it could be used like one of those platforms as social media. The SGA budget is absurd. We're paying 100 dollars on an activity fee. Everyone is, regardless of scholarship, and that's like two hundred fifty thousand dollars. I think we could use that funding, if we could create that engagement, like some type of web service, it’s not impossible. It's not easy but I think we all care about the future of our school ultimately and as president for the school, I'd try to do this stuff. I'll try to say 'look we all care, this is our outlet for caring, let’s use this, lets unify.'”

JD: “I think we've done a good job with constituency groups. I think we've done a good job with attending more campus events so [SGA has] a face. Where I think we need improvement on is holding more groups accountable in terms of sections of SGA, in terms of getting things done, because every [SGA] meeting we don't have to say anything, we can just sit back and be like 'oh we don't have a report to give', but if we even have [SGA members say] 'oh we don't have things to report on, but this is what we're working on' I think that will drastically improve community engagement.”

TMW: *Why do you want to be SGA president?*

AB: “I truly believe that I can be a great mediator between the

SEE **SGA PART TWO** PAGE 4

FROM **PARKING** PAGE 1

enough spaces to accommodate all of the passes given out [to faculty]? What days and times would professors be on campus? Can we assign spots closest to professor's offices?"

The answers to these questions were enough to determine that the school did have enough spaces, explained Davidson, but mostly because of the realization that each professor does not need their own space.

"When we gathered data asking when and at what times professors are mostly on campus we received answers that some may only be on campus certain days, like Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Some may only work on campus in the mornings or evenings," said Davidson. Hence, the parking plan did not necessarily need to accommodate each professor with their own space.

Davidson simply worked with Muhlenberg's existing space and now each professor is assigned to a lot based on where their office is, with another lot of assigned spaces dedicated for additional overflow capacity.

"Overall the project took about one semester," Davidson said. "Ettinger was the trickiest building to coordinate because of it being in the middle of a couple of different lots."

"I have to say that ever since Allison Davidson figured out how to give out parking passes to faculty and staff I haven't had a problem," said Dr. Michele Deegan, professor of political science.

Dr. Jefferson Pooley, chair of Muhlenberg's media and communication department humorously added that the college's parking situation should be expected. "There is never enough parking on any campus. In fact, the former University of California chancellor Clark Kerr is reported to have described professors as a 'series of individual faculty entrepreneurs held together by a common grievance over car parking'," explained Pooley.

Chloe Gravereaux / The Muhlenberg Weekly

One of the student lots located off Chew Street next to the library.

Enforcing parking regulations is another tall order the college faces. "Our office handles parking on a daily basis both in an active and reactive manner," said Kennedy, who oversees Muhlenberg's parking. "The college enforcement period is between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Outside of these hours officers are in a reactive enforcement mindset or in other words, complaint driven. If there is a complaint about a parking-related issue we will take action."

Kennedy explained an example of complaint-driven action would be someone calling campus safety to report a vehicle parked in a handicapped designated space without the appropriate decals.

"We are in an unfortunate position here at the college in that we are very limited in providing any additional parking to our students, faculty, staff, and visitors since Muhlenberg only has a finite amount of geography options where parking is concerned," says Kennedy.

Kennedy has also worked on creating solutions for parking issues. "There have been several discussions focused on implementing a balanced and fair system while adjusting to the increasing student and employee size," said Kennedy.

"In relation to other issues on campus I wouldn't say parking is the most urgent issue, but it is not something that should go ignored for too long," says O'Brien, who likes to leave an extra 15 minutes to crutch to campus or - on some days - search for a scarce parking space.

As for now, though, Kennedy is open to solutions. "Our department and the college as a whole is always open to new suggestions involving our parking situation, but at this time I am unaware of any concrete solutions to date," he said.

Kennedy seems to be quite accurate when specifying that there are no concrete solutions.

Muhlenberg's strategic and master plans includes parking improvements but no language that solidifies an actual plan.

The strategic plan - which defines the goals of the college within a 3-5 year span - states an overall objective to "optimize Muhlenberg's physical resources in support of [the college's] mission." In terms of parking, this includes "redesigning campus parking to provide adequate capacity and further beautify the campus." This is the only mention of parking throughout the 20 page document which outlines the path Muhlenberg intends to carry out through the 2022 academic year.

On the other hand, the master plan, which lays out ideas thirty years in the future, pays more attention to parking with specific ideas and maps. But how the college will actually accomplish these ideas are vague. The biggest improvement to the college's parking would include an underground parking garage with 150 spots located under what is currently the plant operations building.

But even with the addition of the 150 spaces, the college plans to eliminate a total of 166 spaces from portions of the library's parking lot and the entire lot on the corner of Gordon and 23rd Streets. The master plan outlines other smaller projects where the college may gain or lose smaller amounts of parking spots in different areas of campus.

According to the master plan, when all construction in the master plan is finished (in approximately 30 years) Muhlenberg will gain a grand total of 15 parking spaces.

Some have more valid reasons than others to want a better parking spot on campus, while others simply want to extend the time of their sweet dreams, not having to wake up to walk academic row as early. It seems, based on the long-term path Muhlenberg has committed itself to, Muhlenberg community members will be the ones in need of their own strategic plan to find the often elusive empty parking spot.

FROM **MARIJUANA** PAGE 1

before moving forward on any legislation. During Saturday's listening stop at Muhlenberg, a community member asked questions of Fetterman and the state representatives with him. "I'm not here to answer questions. We're here simply to hear what your views are on recreational cannabis use for adults in Pennsylvania," asserted Fetterman.

"I think that there've been a lot of sides," Fetterman said of his tour so far. For example, while he has met people who oppose recreational usage, they are usually in favor of universal decriminalization of cannabis.

He added that Muhlenberg was the first stop where no one raised their hand saying they opposed legalization. "Our staff analyzes every single comment card, every comment online," said Fetterman, explaining that the results of this listening tour will be shared with Gov. Tom Wolf and made available to the public.

Fetterman said that he would love to do more listening tours on other issues during his term and that he's enjoying this tour so far. "I'd rather spend time out on the road than stuck behind a desk," he said. "I like being in a room with people with converging views."

While in his new role as lieutenant governor, he said he has enjoyed "helping be a force for change" since his officiation in January.

Fetterman offered some advice for Muhlenberg students. "It's so important for college students to be fully [politically] engaged," he said. "They know what they want and they know what they need better than anyone. It's so critical, the higher the percentage of college students that vote. You can really shake the conversation."

FROM **SGA PART TWO** PAGE 3

administration and the student body. I think I can hear that voice for the student body and then convey that to the administration. I like the liberal arts and I did not think I would at all. I'm a finance major, I like numbers, that's the way my brain works and I got to Muhlenberg, and I started minoring in philosophy and [realized], 'holy cow' things can be done so many different ways. I see the students have the same ideas, from everywhere, like being in a fraternity or athletics, you meet people from all different sects of campus not really just one friend group, like theater kids, science majors business majors, music. We kind of want the same things. We're all students, we're affected by the same things as a whole, and I think I can hopefully create some type of system to collectivize that and use it for meaningful change."

Cole Geissler / The Muhlenberg Weekly

A meeting of SGA representatives.

JD: "I've been on SGA for about a year now, so I'd say I don't know everything, but I do have a good grasp of the routine [and] how things are done. So I also know, maybe in some ways, how I can change things a little bit to make it flow more smoothly, and like I said, I'm connected to a lot of different sections on the campus, so I feel like I'm well informed on what the kids feel. I work at the Multicultural Center and we're having our block party Apr. 13., and that's a time where we bring the community together, so I'd want to do more stuff like that, because at the block party different organizations have their own table and their different activity. I think along the lines of events similar to that where we can bring the community together, I want to strive for."

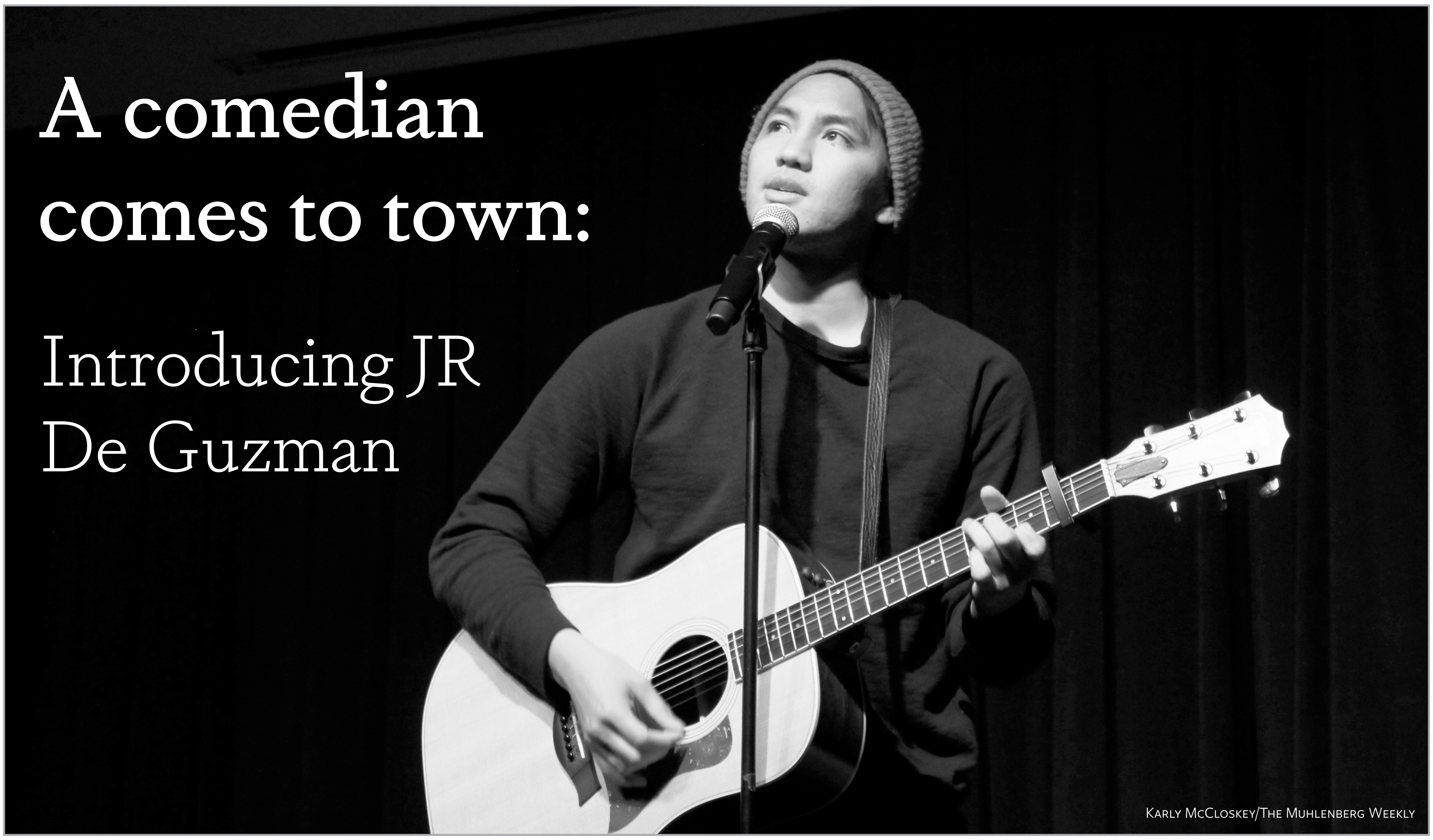
Additional Reporting by Bryan Oliveira

"Life is one grand, sweet song, so start the music."

—Ronald Reagan

A comedian comes to town:

Introducing JR De Guzman



Karly McCloskey/The Muhlenberg Weekly

JR DeGuzman comments, rethinks, and serenades his audience with charm and wit.

By Will Wamser
Op/Ed Editor

JR De Guzman is a musical comedian best known for his 15-minute stand-up special on Netflix's The Comedy Lineup. Guzman was born in the Philippines but raised in California and a dual citizen. His songs and stories covered, but were not limited to, topics like Asian stereotypes and his family's move to America. He has been doing comedy and stand-up since his college days and is currently 28-years-old. Guzman came to Muhlenberg on Friday Apr. 5, performing in the Event Space, doing a combination of stories, semi-improvised songs and audience interaction.

The first thing to note about this event is the attendance, or lack thereof. There were about 20 people in attendance, fairly scattered in their seating. This did not shake JR as he was able to change his set and his performance style to better suit the audience. Guzman immediately recognized the intimate setting and was able to establish a friendly environment for everyone. There was a group of students who had arrived a minute or so late, Guzman jokingly riffed with them until recognizing one of the students, Jarrett Azar '20, to be interracial. After talking with Azar about his background, Guzman decided to sing his song about the power of interracial babies, previously featured on his special. He dedicated it to Azar, who riffed little shout outs throughout the song. Guzman told everyone that he wasn't planning on singing the song, immediately establishing a casual and intimate relationship with the audience. He kept this feeling throughout the show as he went off his planned set and was joking around with different audience members the entire time.

He then decided to sing another song from his special, "Two Things", comparing two things in each verse. He dedicated the song to his grandma and the first verse compared a thin mustache to a potato chip, their similarity being that they are both on his grandma's lip. After going through a couple more verses, Guzman started asking the audience for things to compare. He got some tough suggestions, like comparing Billy Joel and light bulbs, but despite, as he admitted, not knowing much about most of the suggestions Guzman was still able to come up with a rhyme about how they are the same.

Guzman also seemed genuinely interested in Muhlenberg, asking about the performance groups on campus and talking to people about the major choice. Once or twice, Guzman improvised an entirely new song based off of these conversations. I should also say that Guzman did a great job of blurring the line between conversation and his set stories or songs. For instance, about half an hour into the show, Guzman asked the audience how to pronounce Muhlenberg, resulting in the crowd all yelling Muhlenberg at him. He likened the group yelling a germanic sounding word to Nazi Germany. Then for the rest of the show he began each song with a little voice riff saying things like "are you Nazis ready for this?" This culminated in a song called "Don't show your dick" with a call and response section, asking the audience to sing when a man should not show his penis, but in the middle he asked the audience to say "white power," relieved when no one did. This is a great example of how he integrated things from his crowd work into his songs and stories. But even when transitioning from crowd work to a story from his set, Guzman's tone and patterns of his speech remained consistent making the whole show feel conversational in a very intimate way.

I want to make sure that it is clear that Guzman was also very funny, with a talent for word play. A great example was when Guzman informed the audience that he was on his third world tour, then saying it's his first world tour but he's only going to third world countries and then complaining that no one was buying his album on the tour. Another example is his Christmas song, full of sexual word play centered around the winter holidays, then involving the audience by having them sing "falalala falalala falacio." But Guzman was also great at breaking audience expectations, an example from his song "Two Things" is when he compared a Ukrainian family and a baby mouse, saying "these are two things hiding in my house."

After seeing Guzman perform live and his Netflix special, I believe he is a great comedian worth checking out. But this specific performance was something special, both for the audience and it seems for Guzman. As the show was coming to an end Guzman commented on the intimate feel again and opened up some. He admitted that he had recently went through a breakup and asked the audience if he could sing a personal, non-funny song. The audience embraced the idea, so Guzman performed a sad song about his recent breakup for the first time to an audience. The song was interesting and emotional, while keeping his voice as a performer and the fact that he felt comfortable enough to share it shows the feel that the show had. I recommend looking into Jr De Guzman as a comic, but if you didn't attend this show then you missed one of the more intimate, engaging and funny shows that I have seen on this campus.

Music ensemble trilogy warms up the weekend

An overview of the chamber orchestra, wind ensemble and musica de camera concerts

By Sydney Coplin
News Editor

A stimulating symphony of sounds joined the rhythm of the long awaited warm April weather this past weekend as the Chamber Orchestra, Wind Ensemble and Musica da Camera held their spring concerts in the Baker Center for the Arts on Friday, April 5 and Sunday, April 7.

The weekend of musical festivities began with the chamber orchestra concert. Directed by Daniel Boring, professor of Music Theory, the chamber orchestra concert took place last Friday, April 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the Paul C. Empie Theater.

The performance included repertoire from six different composers, with classics such as "Sonnerie de St. Geneviève du Monte-de-Paris" composed by Marin Marais and "Rosamunde Overture, D.644" by Franz Schubert, to more contemporary compositions like Radiohead's "Paranoid Android" or a selection of Hans Zimmer's "Suite from Pirates of the Caribbean: *On Stranger Tides*" including: "Guilty of Being Jack Sparrow," "Angelica" - Bolero, "Mermaids," "Blackbeard" and "End Credits." The concert concluded with "Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5" by Villa-Lobos and then Zequinha de Abreu's "Tico-Tico no Fubá."

The "Bachianas" was a particular bit of note as it is one of the many pieces under Villa-Lobos' repertoire that applies to his *Choros* series. *Choros* refers to a group of orchestral pieces that Villa-Lobos labeled himself. The name also refers to a Brazilian genre of music titled *choro*, that is known as a highly virtuosic type of music that usually consists of string instruments and a wind instrument (such as a flute). Often fast and insanely complex, the genre can oftentimes be associated with jazz music — but it's important to note that these two genres are still very distinct and different. Villa-Lobos no doubt titled his collection of compositions purposely to associate with the popular genre.

The musical momentum picked back up again on Sunday at 3 p.m in the Empie Theater., beginning with The Muhlenberg College Wind Ensemble. The wind ensemble concert, titled "An Afternoon of Song and Dance," was directed by Dr. Andrew Ardizzoia, Assistant Professor of Music, Director of Composition and Instrumental Studies.

The wind ensemble performance, consisting of both students and faculty, began with a selection of songs leading up to an intermission.

The concert opened with Nancy Galbraith's "Danza de los Duendes" and then continued with "Shenandoah" composed by Frank Ticheli, "Three American Hymns" by Luigi Zaninelli and then a transition to Excerpts from *The Firebird* by Igor Stravinsky. Following the intermission, they continued on with a series of Shakespeare excerpts from *Othello, Two Gentlemen of Verona and A Winter's Tale,* to name a few of the Shakespearean snippets.

The Shakespeare excerpts were part of a Ron Nelson's "Danza de los Duendes," with each dance representing an aspect of a Shakespeare play. Nelson himself described that his work is meant to be "a suite of Renaissance dances which were characteristic to five European countries during the 1500s. Three of the dances (Basse Dance, Pavane, and Allemande) are meant to emulate the music of Claude Gervaise by drawing on the style of his music as well as the characteristics of other compositions form that period."

The piece moves smoothly through what appears to be scene and *moment* — accentuating key scenes within the Shakespeare plays in question. It's important to note, however, that these excerpts are reflections of actual dances of the time meant to express not only ability but class status.

The performances continued on Sunday evening, with Musica da Camera at 7:00 p.m. in the Recital Hall. The performers included: Caya Goodspan-Layman '22 on violin, Margaret Jackson '20 on violin and viola, Melissa Reph '20 on clarinet, Avital Zemer '22 on violin, Vincent Trovato on piano and as the coach and graduating senior Katarina Liberatore '19 on violin.

There was music featured from a total of six composers, including Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Reinhold Glieère, Tamas Beischer-Matayo, George Gershwin, Dmitri Shostakovich and Bohuslav Martinu.

The selections from Mozart included Trio in Eb Major, K. 498, nicknamed Kegelstatt, meaning "a place where skittles [ninepins] are played." The music was originally composed in 1786, and was the first composer to write for the combination of the piano, clarinet and viola.

Glieère's "Douze Duos pour 2 violons, Op. 49," Beischer-Matyó "Hasznalatienekek," Gershwin's "Preludes for Piano," Shostakovich's "Funf Stucke fur 2 Violinen und Klavier" and Martinu's "Sonata Pro Dvoje Housle A Klavir" were the additional performances of the evening.

Beischer-Matyó's piece, "Hasznalatienekek," translates from Hungarian to mean "Songs for Use on Tunes of Calvinist Folk Songs."

Overall, the weekend was filled with a diverse array of performances across each of the musical ensembles.

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The life of a radio nerd:

WMUH's Jacob Borislow

By Arielle Moss
Asst. Arts & Culture Editor

Arielle Moss / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Jacob Borislow '19 gives us a glimpse behind the scenes on his radio show Jet Set Radio.

As a Media and Communications and Film Studies double major Jacob Borislow '19 was happy to share his love for his own show Jet Set Radio, which airs on Muhlenberg's radio station, WMUH, on Wednesday evenings from 4 p.m. -6 p.m.

Borislow has been a radio DJ since his first semester of college after signing up for WMUH at the fall activities fair.

"[I signed up for WMUH] on a whim and said that this could be cool. All the people and being able to play my own music is what kept me there," said Borislow.

The title of his show — Jet Set Radio — was named after a video game that he likes, which plays electronic music. His show consists of a variety of music genres, including: broadway music, classical rock, and electronic music. He derived the concept for his show with inspiration from his father, who is a fan of two out of the three music genres he presents on his show: classical rock and electronic. Borislow added broadway to the mix as he, himself, is a big fan of musicals.

Borislow's favorite musical is *Phantom of the Opera,* however, his favorite Broadway song is "'Til' I Hear You Sing" from its sequel *Love Never Dies*. His favorite band is Boston and his favorite song is Hoppípolla by Sigur Rós.

To prepare for each show, Jacob sets time aside the night before to search for new music to use; he then makes an iTunes playlist for the songs, which automatically link to his DJ software, and then he plays the songs the next day. The entire preparation process takes about two to three hours.

During each show, besides playing music, Jacob talks to his listeners or plays a PSA every 15 minutes. He talks about the block of songs that were just played and sometimes even shares with his listeners some campus news.

Sometimes he brings some of his friends to come and listen to his show and while music is playing, Borislow takes the opportunity to do homework.

"[DJs] can hear the music so it's just like having a giant chill session with yourself," said Borislow.

Besides being a DJ for college radio, Borislow has also been a member of WMUH's executive board since his sophomore year. Borislow was appointed as training director his sophomore year and he would not only train new DJs, but he would also audition them and be the first person new DJs meet. During junior year he was appointed the position of concert coordinator and has the responsibility to make sure campus concert events go as planned and helps where needed and he continues to have the position of concert coordinator, now as a senior.

Throughout his undergrad, Borislow has been involved with a variety of other campus activities as well as radio. He is the presidential advisor for Comic Club, a member of Anime Club, a participant of Hillel as well as a ZBT brother.

Borislow loves playing video games and loves movies. He also has a strong interest in Japanese culture.

"I am a Japanophile," Borislow coined.

His favorite video game is *Life is Strange*, which is a story game and involves making decisions. With this statement, Borislow humorously concluded, "I'm just a general nerd."

Borislow is also a huge fan of Disney. He loves learning the history of Walt Disney and about his life and also loves watching old Disney cartoons.

"I am a sucker for old cartoons," shared Borislow. Although Borislow does not know what his plans are after he graduates, he has been desiring to teach English in Japan since he visited the country on a MILA trip.

Borislow also has a strong passion for reading. His favorite authors are Neil Gaiman and Stephen King. He particularly loves Gaiman's *American Gods* and King's *Misery*.

"Anything by these two you can't go wrong with. [Their books] are works of art," said Borislow.

Borislow has had a fun time being a DJ at WMUH and he said that the people have been a delight to work with.

"I am going to miss doing radio and I encourage everyone to do it," said Borislow, "it's some work, but it is also a lot of fun."

Singing songs of the past

Collegium Musicum treats its community to a unique experience

By Ellen Powers
Staff Writer

As soon as the audience walked into the Egner Chapel for the Collegium Musicum concert, they knew they were in for an experience unlike any other. Typically, when a concert is held in the chapel, audience members sit in the pews. However, for the Collegium concert, the audience sat on the altar with the ensemble. This helped the audience become almost part of the ensemble themselves, and it allowed for a much more intimate atmosphere for the concert.

Collegium Musicum is a unique ensemble because of the style of music that is played and the instrumentation in the ensemble. Led by musical director Dr. Ted Conner, the ensemble performs pieces from the Baroque and Renaissance time periods. While other music ensembles at Muhlenberg will sometimes perform pieces from these eras, Collegium Musicum performs pieces exclusively from these periods. To go with the style and era of the pieces, all the instrumentalists perform on period instruments. This allows for the ensemble to perform the various selections in the way that they would have originally been performed. Many of these instruments are not seen in any other ensemble, and therefore are that much more eye-catching and intriguing for those in the audience.

These instruments sometimes resemble their modern counterparts, but they are completely accurate to the Baroque and Renaissance eras. Included in the ensemble are the tenor and bass recorders, the viola da gamba in various forms (treble, tenor, and bass), the lute and the harpsichord.

Collegium Musicum is smaller than some of Muhlenberg's other music ensembles, which meant there were fewer instrumentalists and vocalists to each part. The performers had clearly put in so much effort into learning the pieces and making sure they worked well as an ensemble. They had to be completely confident in what they were playing or singing, and it was apparent that they were. Camilla Rosenfeld '21, who plays the tenor viola da gamba in the ensemble, spoke on the difficulties and rewards of the size of the ensemble.

"I think the smaller number of parts is difficult, but I've learned so much because of it and I've had to play out more and listen to myself more," said Rosenfeld. "Everyone, with these old instruments, is learning, so everyone is in the same boat."

In addition, in pieces where there were both vocalists and instrumentalists, the performers did a fantastic job of balancing the vocal parts and the instrumental parts.

In several of the pieces, the vocalists had to sing chords with complicated and strange-sounding chords, and there would frequently be only one vocalist to each voice part (soprano, alto, tenor, and bass). The vocalists did a superb job of maintaining the chords and completely owning the odd notes that they had. Everyone in the ensemble did an excellent job of listening to each other to make sure that everyone was in time. Rosenfeld elaborated on how the ensemble becomes a unit during the rehearsal process and at the eventual concert.

"No one is conducting us, so we just have to listen to each other, and I think that really builds us as an ensemble," said Rosenfeld. "We're all paying attention to our music but we're also listening to everyone else and making sure everyone is at the same tempo. It's such a group ensemble. Even though Dr. Conner is the music director, he is part of the ensemble, so everyone is kind of like the music director because we're all working together to figure out what's going right, what's going wrong, and what can be done better."

Including not only the unique qualities surrounding Collegium Musicum, but musical talent as well, the ensemble itself was a huge success both in entertainment and performance technique.

"I definitely felt that every person in the ensemble had a passion for what they were performing," said Sarah Zulewski '22, "and it made me as a member of the audience feel just as involved in what they were creating."

The acoustics of Egner Chapel, coupled with the way the audience was seated, all worked together in completely enveloping the audience in the sound of the ensemble and bringing out the breathtaking music the ensemble performed.

"There were many moments of pure musical beauty that I experienced," said Zulewski, "and I felt that all of the piece selections provided a cohesive musical experience that caused a wholesome feeling of satisfaction at the end of the concert."

The Collegium Musicum concert was a musical experience unlike any other in Muhlenberg's wide variety of musical opportunities. It gave the audience the opportunity to be exposed to new eras of music and instruments, and they were able to become just as important to the experience as the performers themselves.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY
OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

My first trip to *The Twilight Zone*

WHAT A
HUMDINGER!

… but not my last

By Jarrett Azar
Humorist

So, as we all know, there was no article from me last week. Considering the fact that I'm your favorite author and Muhlenberg Weekly writer of all time, I know you missed me. I have good reason for my absence, however (and no, it's not because I was lazy and out of ideas, don't you dare). It's because I went on a little bae-cation (bae being me). I remember it like it was yesterday, because it was. I was sitting in my basement (don't ask why), watching the new CBS reboot of *The Twilight Zone*. Suddenly and rapidly, I felt a sneeze coming on. I said to myself, "oh boy, here we go," and let out the violent sneeze. It rippled pain through my body, as sneezes usually do for us hue mans. I sighed, eyes still tightly shut, hoping that I never had to experience such unnecessary violence again. In fact, my exact thoughts were, "I hope to never sneeze again in my life. Ever. Never ever triple dog dare." As I opened up my weak little eyes, I realized I could no longer see the screen. Why, you might ask? Well, it was because there was too much thick vapor in the air, and it reeked of artificial cotton candy flavor. In the distance, I heard a whisper. "In the fleshy-fleshy... In the fleshy-fleshy..." As confused as I was, I was fairly certain these words had graced my little ears in the past. I looked around for the source, my little Chuck E. Cheese eyes trying to cut through the thick fog that had filled the room. Finally, they landed on a figure, standing in the corner of the room. Once my little McDonald's eyes were able to focus, I realized, to my surprise, that it was none other than Tracy Morgan himself! This could only mean one thing: I must also be in the twilight zone! ...*To be continued, after these messages...*

Hi, friends. Thanks for reading my articles. I'm not a hacker.

...*Now, back to the show...* I quickly ran outside, high-fiving Tracy Morgan on my way out — to which he responded, "That's the fleshy flesh." I wanted to experience the slightly changed world, before I experience an ironic horror, possibly even my own demise. Like many main characters do at the end of episodes of *The Twilight Zone*. The world was definitely different. The hibachi place down the street suddenly said Ice Cream Hibachi instead of Asian Hibachi. I wondered if the chef would flick ice cream in his pocket instead of shrimp (he would). I continued to walk, passing where the Walmart once stood, now called Openmart (get it? hehe). I wondered if they sold walls now, since they hadn't before (they didn't). On my walk back to campus, all I could hear was distant sneezes. "Please don't let this be the ironic horror I am forced to experience," I thought to myself. I finally walked into Seegers Union, only to be berated by the sounds of sneezes all around me. I was getting strange looks from people, as if it was weird that I wasn't sneezing. I started to wonder, "Why *aren't* I sneezing?"

I walked into the General's Quarters to find a new section amongst the weirdly familiar yet foreignly-labeled food. Packets of pollen, a buck a piece. As I stared in confusion, the Op/Ed Editor of the Weekly and my good friend Will Wamser walked up to me and said, "Jarrett, you're looking at those like you've never sneezed before, is something wrong? You know you can't write for the Muhlenberg Sneezely unless you're sneezin'." I told him nothing was wrong, but that was just to get him off of my case. He's always on my case, and I swear I'm gonna speak up soon. Anyways, I reluctantly bought a few of the packets and started sniffing the pollen. Nothing. Nothing was happening. I wasn't sneezing. As I kept sniffing, some man in a Tom Brady jersey (of course) slapped my back and said, "What's wrong, lame-o? Can't sneeze?" As him and his friends started to walk away, high-fiving and laughing, I was jolted awake.

It was my good friend and future roommate Will Wamser. He told me I was late for the Weekly, as it was a Tuesday. I followed him to the Weekly, and began frantically writing an article for the week's paper. When suddenly, I began to feel a sneeze coming on. I had to let it out. The violence rocked my body once again, yet this time, when I opened my little veggie eyes, there was no Tracy Morgan, no thick vapor. There was only Will Wamser, staring me down. He looked into my eyes and said, "We've talked about your sneezing in the office! Get out, like the movie! No article this week, sneeze boy!"

And so now you know. It wasn't my fault you were miserable last week. It was Will Wamser and the Twilight Zone's. All in all, that CBS reboot is a solid 3.5/5.

Yours Truly,

The Sneeze, The Queen, Wataholic Numero Uno

Medical Cannabis

As John Fetterman, Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania, travelled through Muhlenberg's bubble on Saturday, Apr. 6 his voice may not have been booming in regards to his own beliefs of cannabis. Instead, Muhlenberg was another stop on his 'listening tour' — a trip that will wind Fetterman through each county in Pennsylvania to listen to constituents share their thoughts on legalizing cannabis beyond medical boundaries.

Five years ago, stories regarding this were less common. The concept was new, people had fears and hopes of equally wild proportions, naturally. You've probably heard the arguments of those certain that cannabis legalization would lead to crime and neighborhoods reeking all hours of the day. Likewise you have probably heard arguments of healing and relaxation for those who wish to use the drug recreationally. You may even be one of the people voicing your opinion on either side of the spectrum.

Right now in Pennsylvania there are certain criteria which a person seeking a medical cannabis ID must fit to be able to legally qualify. A four step approach laid out by the Pennsylvania state government website offers a guide to those seeking medical cannabis. From registration to buying, the plan details registering with the state, being certified by an approved physician to have one of 21 different medical conditions, paying for a medical cannabis ID and purchasing cannabis at one of the state approved dispensaries.

Not included on the website's list are anxiety and Tourette syndrome, but an article by the Morning Call in Feb. 2019 discusses how the Pennsylvania Medical Marijuana Advisory Board voted to recommend the addition of the two conditions to the list of qualifying medical conditions. The board did not recommend other ailments such as insomnia, irritable bowel syndrome, and Addison's disease. The boards recommendations are sent to Pennsylvania Secretary of Health, Dr. Rachel Levine, who will make the final decision on what conditions can qualify a patient to receive a medical cannabis ID.

Although Pennsylvania is behind New Jersey and Delaware, it would be the third state to allow anxiety patients to acquire medical cannabis according to Leafly.com who claims to be the world's largest cannabis information resource.

Those are some facts, nothing more than basic information from other reportings or sources which define where Pennsylvania is in today's 'grand scheme of things'. A greater lesson can be learned from Fetterman's tour. He is touring to listen to people; to hear what those he serve thinks. He gains input through comment cards visitors can fill out, allowing constituents to voice their opinions in a town-hall style set up and by asking visitors to raise their hands to show whether they are for, against or undecided.

It is impossible to predict what may come of the future regarding this highly debated topic, but Fetterman's stance is noble and respectable. He doesn't share his own personal beliefs at the forums, rather he urges citizens to share their opinions rather than seek his. He may have a bias — perhaps the fact that Fetterman's wife is a state certified medical cannabis customer — yet there is still a willingness to hear the community represents.

The approach Fetterman is taking as a politician, who became popular after running on a basis of understanding what life actually is in forgotten towns and cities in Pennsylvania, is a reminder that progress can still be made and voices can still be heard while policies are caught up in legislative limbo. One step Fetterman acknowledged, at Muhlenberg and at other reported events, is the decriminalization cannabis is becoming a widely accepted viewpoint among those who he listens to.

Sure, cannabis' pathway to legalization is the issue which led Fetterman to speak on our campus. It is a topic that evokes passion from every person on the spectrum from very supportive to very opposed. However, a different approach of being solely a listener is new, inviting and frankly refreshing. Hopefully this is a standard that Fetterman continues and other politicians begin to practice as well. The conversations helped individuals understand different perspectives while informing those who may be unsure. Being uncertain of a stance is just as acceptable as being for or against a stance. It's okay to admit that you are not as informed as you would like to be before making a meaningful decision. After all, isn't this the treatment you want as a constituent?

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

Do you believe in life after *Degrassi?*

By Bryan Oliveira
Contributing Writer

We all have that one TV show that means the world to us. Whether you're a diehard *Sherlock* fan or a nihilistic *BoJack Horseman* hipster, it seems like everyone nowadays has that one show that's been there for them time after time. It's the kind of show that you watch when you need to decompress after a long day or if you need something to distract yourself from the gigantic pile of work you've been putting off. It's the go-to source of entertainment that if you didn't have in your life, you'd have a lot more free time on your hands and no idea what to do with it. For me, that show was *Degrassi*.

At some point in everyone's life, they've heard about *Degrassi* from a friend or have even seen an episode or two just out of curiosity. For me, I was bit by the *Degrassi* bug in my senior year of high school and my obsession has only grown larger and larger since then. Instead of actively applying to colleges and getting my life together when I was 17, I spent every free moment I had consistently worrying over the fictional lives of teenagers in Toronto. While friends around me were dealing with relationships, drug use, and generally where they stood in the world, I decided to ignore all of that and live vicariously through the best that Canadian YA melodrama had to offer. I have been with *Degrassi* for approximately 18 seasons worth of programming. I was there for the death of JT Yorke, Riley Stavros coming out of the closet, and the wedding between Spinner Mason and Emma Nelson. When I say that I'm a "fan" of *Degrassi*, it's an understatement unlike any other. With that being said, what do I do now that the show has been cancelled?

On Mar. 7 of this year, longtime cast member and producer Stefan Brogren confirmed that the latest incarnation of the *Degrassi* franchise, *Next Class*, had been cancelled after four seasons on Netflix and the Family Channel in Canada. This decision came as a huge shock to *Degrassi* fans all over, but what's even more nerve-racking are the possible outcomes of this upsetting cancellation. The first possibility is one that a super fan like me is hoping for: a reboot of the series, which isn't really out-of-the-ordinary for a show like this. After *Degrassi High* left the air back in 1991, and the 1992 made-for-TV movie School's Out , it took over nine years for the franchise to come back as *Degrassi: The Next Generation*. With this move, the franchise captured the hearts of a new audience of young viewers like myself who were growing up in the early days of the Internet and witnessing firsthand the rise of smartphone technology in everyday life. Suddenly, the kids that were beloved back in the glory days of the 80s were now parents and teachers whose own kids were taking the lead and teaching us to fall in love with the complicated nature of adolescence all over again. The possibility of a reboot is exciting and brings fans the hope of a bigger and better series on the horizon. However, that is only one possible road that the *Degrassi* makers can go down.

> **There's no other show out there that has the light-hearted drama and continuity that *Degrassi* had.**

On the grimmer side of the cancellation, the end to *Next Class* might be the ultimate end to *Degrassi* as we know it. This incarnation of the franchise was only on for four seasons and most of the main characters that we grew to love were not only introduced in the later days of *Next Gen*, but had also "graduated" in the season four finale of *Next Class*. This meant that the writers either had to immediately develop new characters to keep the show running or hold onto the graduates' popularity until they could come up with worthy successors. Choosing to end the series is a scary proposition because it suggests that the *Degrassi* showrunners are tapped out when it comes to ideas. If that's the case and the chances of seeing a *Degrassi* reboot are non-existent, what will the *Degrassi* superfans do with their favorite show off the air? Sure, we can rewatch all the episodes that made us fall in love with Canadian TV, but how long can a whole generation of viewers live in the past before they go crazy? There's no other show out there that has the light-hearted drama and continuity that *Degrassi* had.

It's sad to say, but pop culture could now be witness to the mass displacement of fans spread from the shores of Newfoundland all the way down to the beaches of Florida.

Technology's iron grip on Muhlenberg

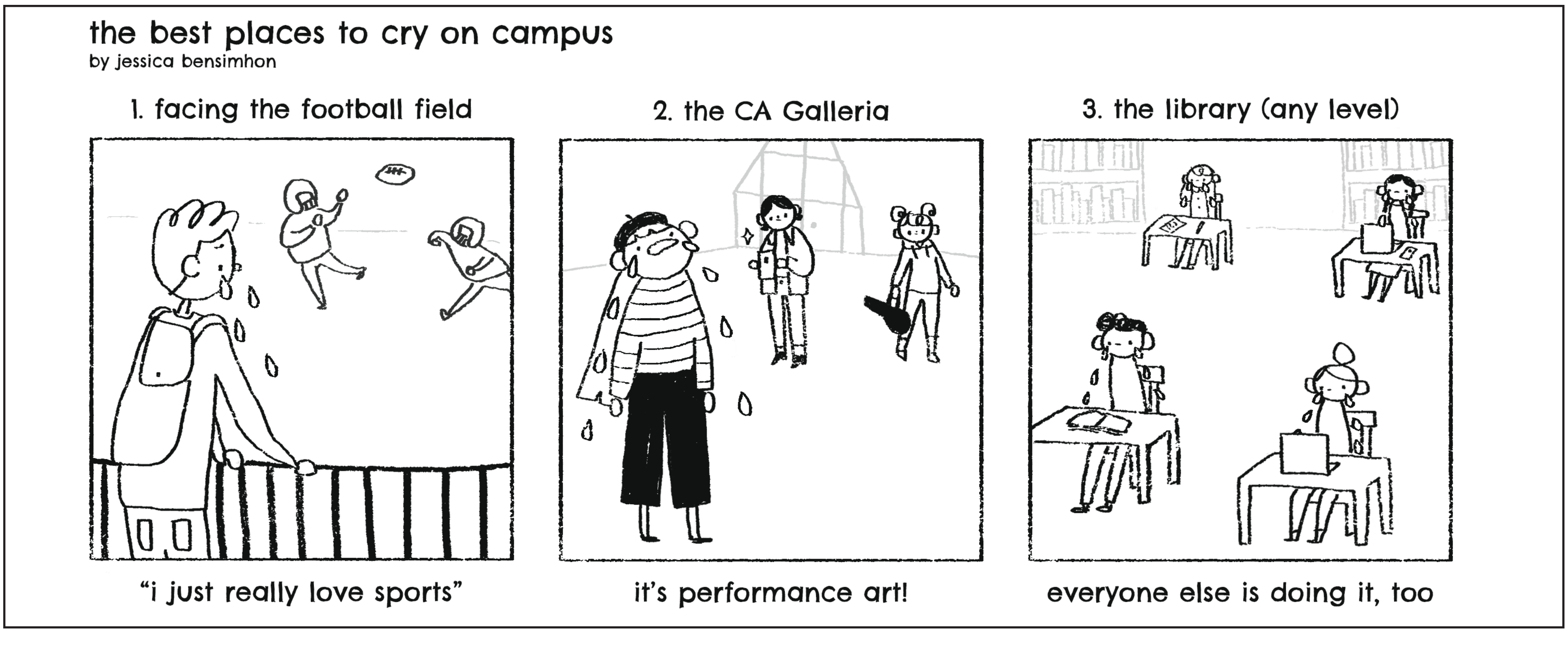
WHAT A
HUMDINGER!

By Will Wamser
Op/Ed Editor & Humorist

One of the greatest questions that has permeated throughout our pop culture is the question of man's hubris. The royal we are constantly asking if the royal we can, never stopping to ask if the royal we should. This idea of man going too far, breaking the laws of God in the pursuit of knowledge always resulting in the downfall of man, has been at the center of some of the greatest pop culture touchstones. Look to Steven Spielberg's "Jurassic Park," H.G. Wells' "Island of Doctor Moreau," or even a third example. But we are living in an interesting time where the questions these films and books bring up are questions scientists seem to have forgotten. You may be sitting there thinking, "I don't see how this is an issue, even if AI is achieved it will happen long after I'm dead, no threat to me." Well, you are wrong there my friend, dead wrong. These challenges to God's design are happening faster than you think and closer than you'd hope. One of the most disgusting examples of technology going too far can be found in our own dining hall, as the new soda machine mocks all that is holy.

For those of you not within the know, the Muhlenberg Woods Dining Hall (AKA "D-Hall") just replaced one of their soda dispensing machines with a flashy new version of the same thing. Now, you all know me, I don't like to make a huff over nothing, but this is unforgivable and I plan on huffing until something is done. That soda machine was an institution at this school, does tradition mean nothing to the power-hungry scientists that cooked up this monstrosity? I've grown to know the old soda machine over my three years here. I understood the old girl, I could tell when the ice didn't work and you had to just get ice from a big bin that seemed gross. And sure it wasn't the best but that doesn't mean we just had to throw it out to the curb for the rats to live in it. Muhlenberg is throwing away its history by getting rid of that old soda machine.

I know what you are thinking, "Who cares Will? It's just a soda machine!" Well you are an idiot, it is so much more than that. This new machine may look slick and always have ice and give you the right beverage every time, but it is without heart. You can already see its immediate negative effects. I do not believe in fate, but it is no coincidence that the same week this new machine is introduced the dishwasher breaks down for two days, forcing us to eat off of paper plates like swine. What is this new soda machine's nefarious plan? It is breaking down the machines around it in order to bring in more of his fancy new friends. The machines that we the students built with our own blood, sweat and tears... how are we so quick to forget? What will these silver beasts do when we are surrounded by them? Well I shall not go gentle into that good night, I will fight the machine and I plan on winning for that is GOD's plan. That's right, I'm religious! If you'd like to show the heathens what man and God can truly do, then join me on this Sunday to throw this abomination into the depths of hell from whence it came, before it throws us into servitude. See you guys there!


the best places to cry on campus
by jessica bensimhon
1. facing the football field
"i just really love sports"
2. the CA Galleria
it's performance art!
3. the library (any level)
everyone else is doing it, too

Fountain of youth

Off to their best start since 2014, women's softball looks to have it extend into the Centennial Conference playoffs

By Alex Blum
Sports Editor

The 2014 season was the last time Muhlenberg softball wrapped up the year boasting a winning record. It seems as if this is about to change as the Lady Mules find themselves sixth in the Centennial Conference with an overall record of 18-10 and look to finish on a high note as the 2019 regular season finishes up on Apr. 25 with a final doubleheader against Scranton.

As the ladies push to to clinch their first Centennial Conference playoff berth since the 2015 season, the eight new freshmen have been integral in providing the entire group with a necessary spark.

"They have been huge contributors to our success so far. All of them bring so much talent to our team and have pushed all of us returning to work harder than ever before. They are the driving force of our team and have stepped up in high-pressure situations and have been extremely successful," said Sophie Chong '21, who earned Centennial Conference pitcher of the week on Apr. 1 after wrapping up the week 2-0 with an 0.00 ERA and K's.

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Sarah Schubert '20 eyes the ball in 2017.

"We have a very talented group of freshman and a young team overall," said outfielder, Sarah Schubert '20. "The freshmen have stepped into key positions on the field and in the lineup, which has only made our team stronger."

According to Chong, the majority of their success in 2019 stems from the bond shared between the players. "One of the biggest contributors to our success so far is the trust that we have in one another. We are constantly picking each other up in various situations whether that be after an error on the field or a strike out while up to the bat. We know that the next play our teammate will have our back and make the next play," said Chong. "We constantly remind each other that we have to play 'Berg Softball' and not forget where we came from. If we continue to play the way we know how, we will continue to be successful."

"We play as a team," added Schubert. "Each person has a role and we need each role to succeed. We are incredibly close on and off the field as well, which has also contributed to our success."

The Centennial Conference playoffs will begin soon, and hopes and expectations are especially high for the Mules as they venture down the home stretch.

"We have the ability to finish our season incredibly strong and as long as we continue play our game, we have the potential to go very far this year," Schubert said.

For Chong, "remaining in the top portion of the Centennial Conference is important," but ultimately the "biggest goal is to make the Centennial Conference tournament and play our best once we are apart of it."

The ladies take the diamond once again, following their out-of-conference meeting with Moravian, in Chestertown, MD with the Shorwomen of Washington College on Saturday Apr. 13.

Senior golfer adds to her trophy case

Aine Filler '19 captured the Susquehanna Spring Invitational on Saturday, her 7th career tournament win

By Jason Grant
Assistant Sports Editor

The first major of the year, the Masters, begins this month with names like Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy headlining the field. But even they would have had trouble competing against Aine Filler '19 on Saturday, as the senior captured her second tournament win this season.

Filler and the rest of the women's golf team competed at the Susquehanna Spring Invitational on Saturday at Williamsport Country Club. The women put up an impressive performance, finishing fourth out of the eight teams and only 15 shots back of the second place team. Drew University came away with the team title, clearing Muhlenberg by an impressive 37 strokes.

Anisha Reddy '20 had a nice day on the course for the Mules, posting a score of 96, her second lowest on the season and good enough for 11th place overall. Emma Mueller '22 shot a 97 and Katie Chen '21 scored a 125.

However, it was Filler who blew past the rest of the field, beating all 38 other golfers with the low score of 81. Filler has been the most successful women's golfer at Muhlenberg throughout her illustrious collegiate career. She has won a tournament each year she has been a Mule, capturing seven tournaments overall with the win on Sunday.

"To win a tournament every year of my college career means, to me, that I was able to remain consistent and competitive," said Filler. "Sometimes life can get in the way, especially during college, so all seven of my wins were very rewarding to me. They are a constant reminder of all the hard work that I put into this sport, which has allowed me to get so much more out of it besides winning some tournaments."

Last year, Filler was limited to just four tournaments due to a lingering injury. She ended up winning two of those tournaments, which were back-to-back. She finished second in another.

"It's my goal every season to win a tournament or two. Winning in my final season as a Mule doesn't feel any different than winning in any other season," said Filler. "Yet I'm sure I will look back in several years and be proud of my college career and always remember that I finished out strong."

On Monday, the Mules hosted the Muhlenberg Invitational, and while Filler did not win, a Mule did take home the title. Kat Hodges '20 tied for the low score of 84 and won the tiebreaker to bring home the title for the Mules. In her last home match, Filler finished one shot back and placed third, adding to her outstanding streak of 16 consecutive top 10 finishes.

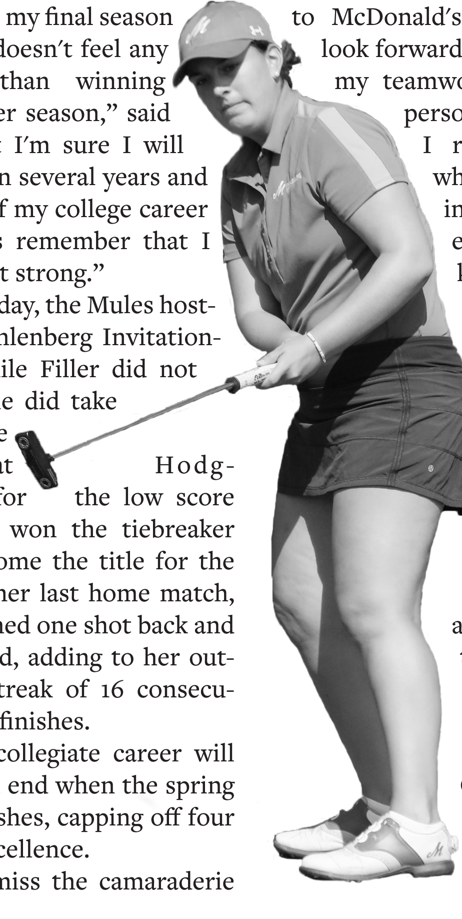
Filler's collegiate career will come to an end when the spring season finishes, capping off four years of excellence.

"I will miss the camaraderie of being on a sports team. As I prepare for my career outside of college, which is taking me to McDonald's Corporate, I look forward to applying all my teamwork and interpersonal skills that I really fostered while I was playing golf," Filler explained. "I know that I will still be working in teams, just a little differently than what I am used to."

Filler could also make both the All-Centennial Conference First Team and the Centennial Conference Academic Honor Roll for the third time. The Centennial Conference Championship is the lone match remaining for the season on Apr. 27 and 28.

Filler is optimistic about the team's chances at the Conference Tournament, a tournament she has placed top five twice.

"I will also miss my coach," Filler reflected. "He has been nothing but supportive of me and my teammates the past 4 years. I will miss my teammates a bunch. We get to spend a lot of time together in the van to and from tournaments and during our car rides to Lehigh Country Club. And although I will miss so much about this program, I can't wait to finish the season strong in a few short weeks at our Centennial Conference Championship!"



Filler shot an 81 this past weekend, resulting in a first place finish;

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Women's lacrosse continues to roll

The Lady Mules beat ranked division rival #23 Haverford last week in a thrilling matchup

By Noah Brill
Contributing Writer

The women's lacrosse team has started their season on a positive note, sporting a 7-4 record, including a stretch in which they went 4-1, which culminated in a win against #23 Haverford in a nail-biter last week.

Although Lady Mules' early season success does not hinge on any one factor, there are many noticeable differences from last year's squad, including the leadership skills of the senior class and the addition of many freshmen. Additionally, the youth movement has clearly provided a spark, as the team has already matched its win total from last season. The group's early success has some already thinking about a conference championship.

"In order to compete for a conference championship, we need to keep playing our game. We are in the heart of our conference play right now, so we need to come out strong in our next games to show the conference that we are tough contenders." said Melissa Rudberg '19.

> **"We are all really great friends on and off the field; which has improved our team dynamic."**

With a 2-2 record in conference play, Muhlenberg is sitting in sixth place in the Centennial Conference standings. They are only two games behind first, Washington College, who the Mules lost to this past Saturday evening. Even though the team faces an uphill battle at the moment, there are still many games to play. The team's resilience will be tested in the upcoming weeks as they face a grueling schedule and have some ground to make up.

The team's marked improvement has been most noteworthy in terms of their lockdown defense.

"Especially in our recent game against Haverford, our attack did a really great job moving the ball with confidence and capitalizing on the other team's mistakes. Defensively, we have older and experienced players," Rudberg added.

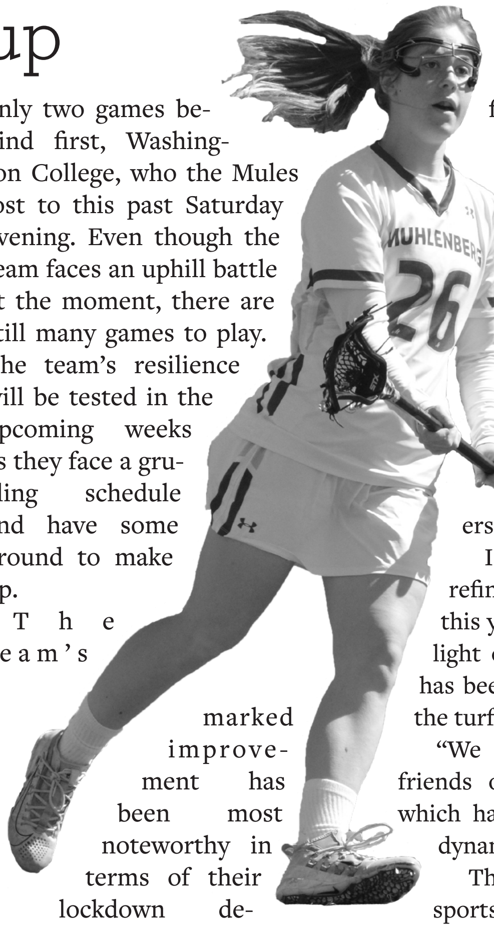
In addition to all of the refinements on the field this year, a less visible highlight of the season thus far has been the team's unity off the turf.

"We are all really great friends on and off the field, which has improved our team dynamic," said Rudberg.

The social aspect of team sports, while seen by many as trivial or even detrimental, is oftentimes a critical component of athletes' success, as in a lot of cases, teammates become one another's primary social circle.

The team will hit the road this weekend to travel to Westminster, Md., to play McDaniel on Saturday, Apr. 13 at 3 p.m., kicking off a stretch that could ultimately make or break what has been a great comeback season thus far.

> **"Defensively, we have older and more experienced players."**



The Lady Mules have been on fire, winning four of their last five matches.

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Live and Learn

A small bump in the road to the CC playoffs won't stop men's lacrosse

By Samantha Brenner
Contributing Writer

The men's lacrosse team ended the week with a Friday night game against the 4-6 Washington College. The men looked to add to their impressive 5 game winning streak. The game did not go as they had planned, leaving the Mules faced with a two game losing streak. With a final score of 7-6, this marked the second time in a row in which the Mules only lost by one goal.

Even with the torubles, standout James Dalimonte '22 completed a hat trick while Brandon Moyer '21, Ethan Grossman '21, and Cooper Richards '22 all contributed with one tally each.

Attacker and leading scorer Grossman reflected on the loss and sees it as a great opportunity for the team to grow.

"To get the momentum back in our favor," said Grossman, "we have to learn from our mistakes in the previous games and just focus on the game right ahead of us."

While the game ended in unfortunate fashion, Grossman met a personal accomplishment, breaking Mickey Norton's career points record, becoming the sole leader of goals scored with 124 in his 29 game Muhlenberg career.

"It feels great breaking the career points record," said Grossman. "I have worked so hard on my game, putting in hours and hours into my craft and it just shows that my hard work has paid off."

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Ethan Grossman works off an Immaculata defender in 2018.

However, Grossman has yet to put behind that his achievement came in a losing effort: "Although I broke the record it still came on a loss so we must work hard as a team to bounce back."

With the snapping of their two game losing streak on the line, in a tough game against Swarthmore, the team looked to move forward and determined to turn it around.

"I'd say the game plan for Swathmore was just to keep it simple with minimal turnovers," Grossman added.

"The plan of attack is the same it had been all year, nothing changes with two losses," said defenseman Maxwell Seeber '22. "We focused in on understanding the game plan for the team we have in front of us and made sure went full speed in practice and kept that energy and intensity high."

He looks at these losses as just a bump in the road and knows that this small slump will only help the team and the players grow individually.

"Being that the centennial conference is one of the toughest conferences in the country for DIII lacrosse we know that we have to up our intensity, focus, and preparation to get that momentum going again. This is a time for us to speed up and go to a high level of play and not stay stagnant," Seeber continued.

Seeber is confident that they will bounce back from the pair of losses. "After a strong start to our conference play with a big win over Haverford, we feel that in order to get over the hump and consistently win our tough conference games, we need to learn to win the close one goal games."

With the last two losses being by one goal, the team looks to work on finishing games off strong. As for the rest of the season, the Mules look to move forward to playing the next two games on the road, playing in the roughest DIII conference against a team who is 7-3, eager to rid themselves of their three game losing skid.

"It is going to take a full 60 minutes of playing simple but gritty lacrosse to beat the tough teams. It takes a lot of hard work in the offseason and season to come on top in the toughest conference in the nation. We have to work hard in every practice so that hard work leads to success when we play eight tough in-conference teams," Grossman said.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Early mule catches the worm

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

6 A.M. practices look to make Mule football even more fearsome in 2019.

By Alex Horowitz
Senior Staff Writer

Coming off of a season in which the Mules nearly reached college football immortality, a taste of success wasn't just "good enough" for the players and coaching staff here in Allentown, PA.

In fact, even after the Muhlenberg football team's first ever trip to the Elite 8 of the DIII NCAA Tournament, they have already begun to put in the early-morning work that will push them to the next level of dominance next season.

"Our staff and team have a couple of goals each and every spring," said head coach Nate Milne. "The first is being to establish our work ethic. Waking up at 5:30 a.m. and beginning our workout at 6 a.m. isn't for everyone on campus. You have to absolutely love your sport to be committed enough to make it through spring. Second is increasing our overall football IQ at each position and this spring a major focus has been on our special teams. We want to have more people involved and to make sure each player knows all of the details in each phase of the kick game. Finally, spring is an opportunity for us to take a look at new techniques and plays. Coach David and our defensive staff have put in many hours of professional development looking at our trends, and the latest trends in the NFL and Division I. Offensively we have looked at some new plays as well and every year we incorporate some new things and throw out some things that might not be suited for the 2019 team."

While the regular season schedule does not begin until the end of August and the beginning of September, the team knows it must put in the necessary on-field and weight room work now in order to be prepared for the rigors of a full season starting at the conclusion of this summer. The team also has a special trip to Italy planned after graduation to play elite European teams, which is another level of competitiveness that will boost the Mules to the next level of DIII stardom in the always-tough Centennial Conference.

"Being able to work with our team in the spring is a very big advantage for our team," said tight end Ryan Curtiss '20. "Even though every team has spring ball practice, being able to get this extra work in helps us mold as a team. Any extra practices and workouts we can get as a team before the season can only help our team. We are focusing on the little things and making sure our techniques and skills are getting better each and everyday. We are in the weight room three days a week and on the field three days a week working on our strength and conditioning. We work closely with our strength and conditioning coach to fix techniques and strategies we can use to make our bodies stronger and well rounded."

As an NCAA varsity sports program, the football team is not unique in holding routine practice sessions during the off-season. However, what is unique for this team is the frequent early morning practices during the off-season that might seem grueling because of the extremely early start time. The tough times now will only seem to lead to a promised future for this football squad, which knows it can do even better than its final-eight finish this past season. A national championship surely is not out of the question either.

So what does the coaching staff see as special in the 2019 Muhlenberg Mules football team, and what will separate them apart from the already-large level of success that was seen in 2018?

"I think what our staff likes is that we have a large senior class where football is very important to them," said Milne. "This type of focus is passed on from team to team and has been a staple of Muhlenberg College football for many years. There is also nothing we can't ask this team to do; they want more football, and more technique and more meetings. They are really working hard to make 2019 special."

It seems all the more likely that 2019 will indeed be a special season for the Mules football team. While the team is losing a special group of seniors to graduation, the new group of seniors, including Curtiss, will be sure to fill the void left by the losses of players such as Nate Corvil, Sean Elliott, Matt Gibbon, Bobby Merle and Kyle Oprisko, all class of 2019.

"Practicing at 6 a.m., three days a week comes with a lot of benefits even if players hate waking up that early to practice," said Curtiss. "Our coaching staff is preaching us to push ourselves everyday to push our limits and become not only better football players on the field but to become mentally stronger. Our bodies and minds are used to practicing in the afternoon, but having practice in the morning we are facing a new challenge and it helps us get ready for the unexpected events that could happen in games during the season. The goal for spring ball is to become mentally and physically stronger to prepare us for the upcoming season. The coaches are looking to push our limits so we are able to grow and be the best football players we can be when the season comes around."

Coming up this week in
SPORTS
April 11 through April 13

Softball

Muhlenberg
vs
Moravian

Thursday, Apr. 11 @ 3 PM & 5 PM
Bethlehem, Pa.

Track and Field

Coach
P Invitational

Saturday, Apr. 13
Bethlehem, Pa

Men's & Women's Tennis

Muhlenberg
vs
Gettysburg

Saturday, Apr. 13 @ 1:00 pm
Gettysburg, Pa

Baseball

Muhlenberg
vs
Swarthmore

Friday, Apr. 12 @ 3:30 pm
Cedarcreek Park, PA

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Stephanie Ng wins SGA presidential race

Photo Courtesy of Stephanie Ng

THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2019
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NEWS

This past weekend, Muhlenberg hosted the seventh annual Society for Cinema and Media Studies Undergraduate Conference with over 30 student presenters from across the map.

read more on 4

ARTS & CULTURE

Actors who participated in last weekend's Red Door Play Festival talk about their experience and about the plays in which they were cast.

read more on 7

Visiting musician Ken Zuckerman plays the sarod during a concert of Indian Classical music.

Photo by Cole Geissler

OP/ED

Senior editors Chloe Gravereaux, Matt Riebesell and Lauren D. Mazur say goodbye to their friends and family at The Weekly before they graduate.

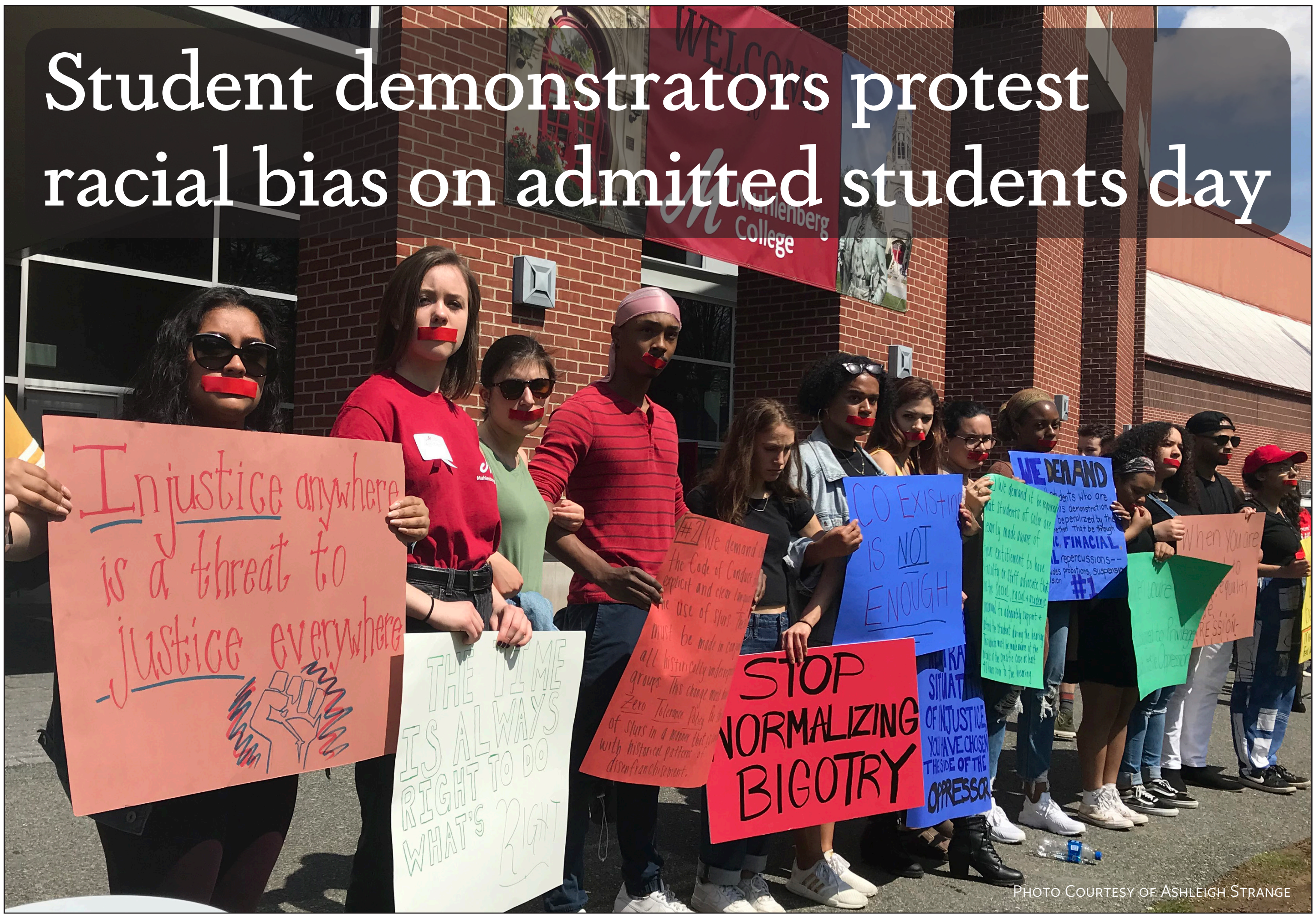
read more on 8

SPORTS

April 13 marked the annual induction ceremony for the Muhlenberg Athletics Hall of Fame.

read more on 12

Student demonstrators protest racial bias on admitted students day



WELCOME
Muhlenberg College
Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere
THE TIME IS ALWAYS RIGHT TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT
STOP NORMALIZING BIGOTRY
CO EXISTING IS NOT ENOUGH
WE DEMAND

Photo Courtesy of Ashleigh Strange

Students protested outside the Life Sports Center with various signs and red duct tape over their mouths.

By Laura Schwarz
Asst. News Editor

On April 13, dozens of Muhlenberg students gathered in front of the Life Sports Center for a silent protest against racial bias in the school administration. As hundreds of prospective students and their families passed through the sports center for Through The Red Doors, the protestors stood, arms linked, holding up signs and wearing red tape over their mouths.

This demonstration came three days after Dean of Students Allison Gulati sent a schoolwide email addressing biased and hateful language on campus. President Williams addressed both the demonstration and the demonstrators' complaints in another schoolwide email on Monday night.

The protest followed an alleged incident of racism on campus.

"Due to confidentiality, I can't provide any specific information related to an ongoing student conduct issue or any individual students' conduct record at the college," explained Gulati to the Weekly.

In a statement released to the Weekly, the "Student Action Group" explained the purpose of their protest.

"The demonstration and its timing was not about punishing anyone. It was about creating urgency, raising awareness/visibility and creating nonviolent peaceable crisis in order to have important and pressing issues with policy, administration of said policy, racial incidents and social acts of racism etc., acknowledged so that work can begin. The protest in part was about acknowledging how the measures the college has put forth need further examination and how too often they do not adequately protect, support and ensure students of color's access to equitable education free of discriminatory incidents."

Gulati explained that, in addition to the "respect for others" and "respect for community" sections of the Student Code of Conduct — both of which prohibit biased language — the newly updated and recently approved Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination Policy addresses what she believes are student concerns about the judicial process.

"I know that there are many people across campus who have concerns about the judicial process, about the use of biased language on campus, and about making sure we're creating the most equitable community possible," explained Gulati. "That policy is intended to ensure that, with regard to harassment and discrimination at the college, whether it's based on identity based bias or sexual in nature, that it's taken with the utmost seriousness and is addressed to the fullest. So that policy specifically speaks to harassing language or discriminatory practices at the college that would prevent someone from having the full experience that they're entitled to."

Gulati explains that students could benefit from some changes to the current process.

"One of the things I think students are asking for right now is more specific examples of language and where it would fall in terms of a violation and what types of resulting action could come from using it. And so, that's something we're going to work with students [about] now. If there are any students who are interested in being part of that, to help put even more language to [the code],[they can help] to provide more transparency and understanding for students about language within the code. So that's an improvement that we would absolutely be willing to make."

Gulati stated that physical violence and biased language are supposed to be treated with the same level of severity.

"One thing to note is that hypothetically in any student conduct case if bias-based language was used in a significantly threatening manner it could be considered at the same level initially as physical violence, because there is an emotional harm that is severe and significant from using bias-based language on our campus. Beyond that, generally in our code if there is a complaint that someone has used that language, it would be investigated and then it would be put to a hearing board or another student conduct process where the facts would be reviewed, witnesses would be interviewed and provide their perspectives and based on that, a hearing board or an individual administrator would make a decision on responsibility as well as the sanctions that would be imposed and those sanctions could be from expulsion to a disciplinary warning at the college. And then they also typically always come with additional educational sanctions to help students learn from

see **Action** page 4

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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The Muhlenberg Weekly strives for accuracy in reporting and writing, but we acknowledge that mistakes happen. Readers are invited to submit corrections about errors in articles, and they should be submitted to weeklyeditor@gmail.com. Corrections are also brought to our staff's attention by our own editors and writers. Our staff will review the suggested correction, consult with the author of the article, and issue the appropriate correction. Online corrections are located at the bottom of the article. Print corrections are located within the paper, on the page indicated in the online edition. However, The Weekly does not grant take-down requests for articles.

ADVERTISING POLICY

We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

Monday, April 8
Injured student - 2:00 p.m.
There was a report of an injured student in Prosser Hall. Student transported to Health Center.

Suspicious person - 3:35 p.m.
There was a report of a suspicious person on Chew Street. Investigation to continue.

Property damage - 6:40 p.m.
There was a report of non-criminal property damage to a door in Trumbower. Plant Operations was notified and responded to repair.

Tuesday, April 9
Burglary - 7:30 a.m.
There was a report of theft in East Hall. Investigation to continue.

Wednesday, April 10
Weapons possession - 1:41 p.m.
There was a report of swords found in a room on Gordon Street during room checks. The items were brought to Campus Safety and placed in the evidence locker.

Animal complaint - 3:20 p.m.
There was a report to locate a dog on Front Drive. Area checked, nothing found.

Odor investigation - 3:54 p.m.
There was a report of the smell of marijuana at a sorority house. Area checked, nothing could be found.

Thursday, April 11
Noise complaint - 12:32 a.m.
There was a report of a noise complaint on 22nd street. Area checked, nothing could be found.

Fire alarm- 9:41 a.m.
There was a report of a fire alarm on Gordon Street from burnt food. System was silenced and reset.

Found property - 1:04 p.m.
There was a report of a found credit card at Seegers Union. Owner later claimed item.

Friday, April 12
Sick student - 1:12 a.m.
There was a report of a sick student at East Hall. The student was transported to the hospital by Campus Safety.

Lost property - 12:15 a.m.
There was a report of a lost credit card in Seegers Union.

Odor investigation - 2:22 p.m.
There was a report of the smell of marijuana on Liberty Street. Area checked but nothing could be noted.

Traffic accident - 2:00 p.m.
There was a report of a minor motor vehicle accident on Back Drive causing damage to a College golf cart. Investigation to continue.

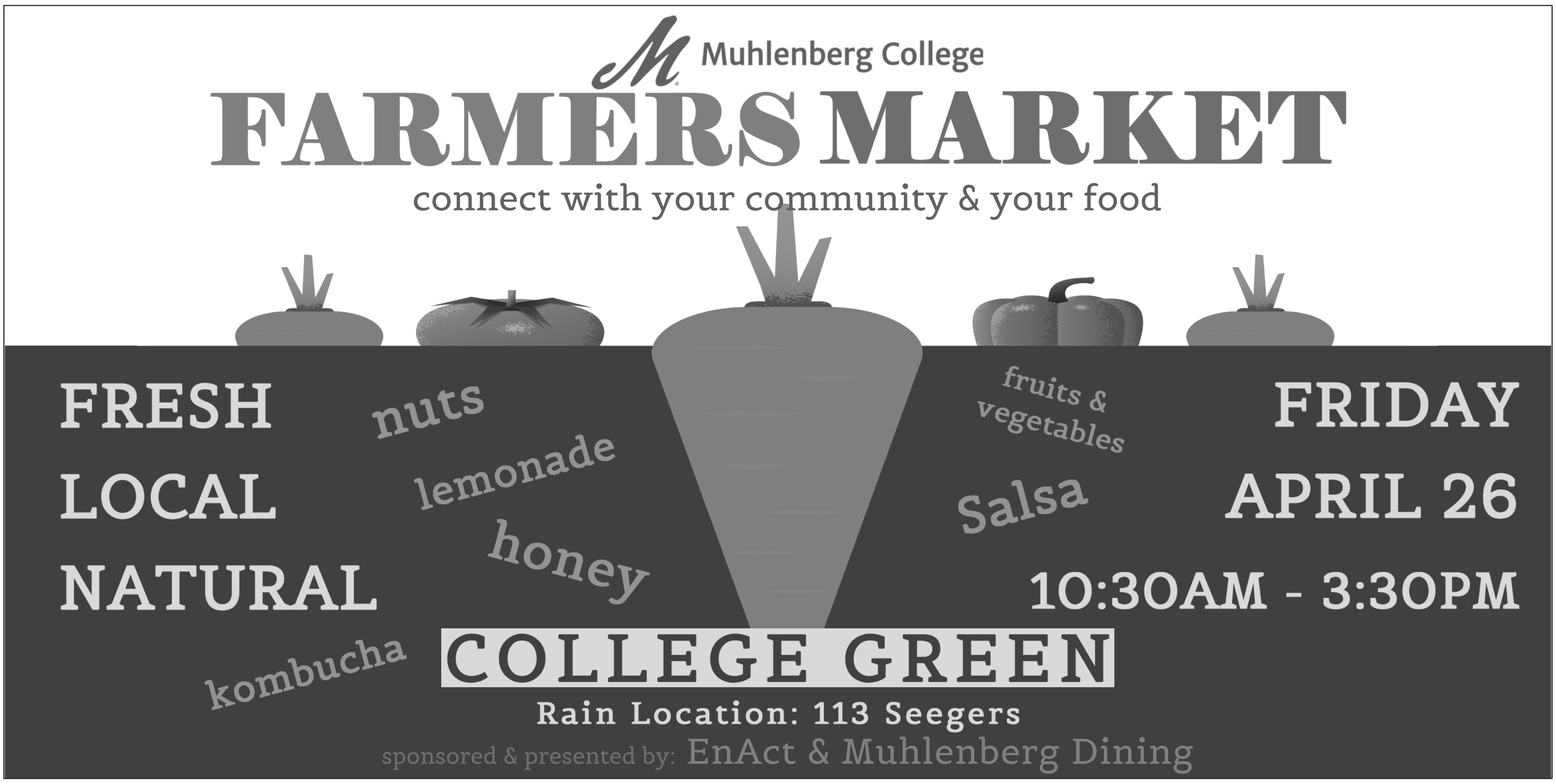
Alarm - 7:19 p.m.
There was a report of trouble alarms in Taylor Hall. Call placed to Simplex to respond and repair the issue.

Sick student - 10:29 p.m.
There was a report of a sick student at Prosser Hall. Student transported to hospital by Campus Safety.

Sick student - 10:56 p.m.
There was a report of a sick student in East Hall. Allentown EMS responded, but student refused further transportation or transport.

Saturday, April 13
Animal complaint - 8:57 p.m.
There was a report of a wasp in a room on North 22nd Street. Residential Services was notified, no further incident.

Sunday, April 14
Property damage - 3:00 a.m.
There was a report of damage to a paper towel holder at Seegers Union. Work order submitted for repair.



Fast fashion: a growing trend among college students

By Rachel Siegel
Contributing Writer

Have you ever noticed when you walk into a store, such as Forever 21 or Zara, there is a completely new selection of clothing items that weren't there the week before? How about Target, where the sale section takes up as much room as the section of new clothing right beside it? With such a large assortment of clothing, and new collections being introduced weekly, a chunk of these items will inevitably go to waste. This phenomenon is called fast fashion.

Merriam Webster defines fast fashion as "an approach to the design, creation and marketing of clothing fashions that emphasizes making fashion trends quickly and cheaply available to consumers."

Retailers are encouraged to replicate the most current high fashion trends and produce products that incorporate these trends as quickly as possible, regardless of the quality of the product.

While seasonal releases of clothing lines used to be the norm, now retailers release new items weekly, sometimes even daily, to keep up with consumer demand. Although the mass production of clothing items satisfies consumers, there is a significant, negative impact on the environment.

According to the United Nations, the fashion industry produces more carbon emissions than international flights and maritime shipping; a notable carbon footprint and clear contributor to climate change.

Karly McCloskey / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Upcycle Apparel is a sustainable alternative for purchasing clothes on campus.

At Muhlenberg College, many students are clear contributors to this problem.

"I mainly shop at Target, American Eagle, and Forever 21," says Kyla Buck '19, listing all stores classified under the fast fashion industry. "I like these stores because they're relatively cheaper than other stores and I can get clothing for a variety of occasions at once," she continued.

While Buck was aware of what fast fashion was, she did not necessarily recognize the harm in it. "It depends what you are looking for as the consumer," she says. Similarly, Maddie Mcguire '19, defines fast fashion as "inexpensive clothing that represents current trends...I think it's a good thing," she says. Another student on campus, Devin Raimo '19, explains, "I like fast fashion because stores keep up with new trends and you can be stylish as soon as possible."

Fast fashion industries directly appeal to college students for these reasons, and although Muhlenberg College students might know what fast fashion is, they are not necessarily aware of the environmental effects associated with it.

Some of the environmental effects include untreated clothing dyes entering the water sources and textile waste in landfills, according to an article from Phys.org.

There are, however, operations on campus trying to change this trend and encourage people to shop in a more sustainable way; one of these movements is Upcycle Apparel, a Muhlenberg specific consignment shop on campus.

"Our goal is to reduce clothing waste, starting with the Muhlenberg College campus. We felt that there really were not many convenient options for a Muhlenberg student who wants affordable, used clothing or to clean out their closets without their clothing going to waste." says Josh Myers '20, one of the creators of Upcycle Apparel. "At the end of the day, our overarching goal is to raise awareness about the environmental impacts of fast fashion and clothing waste, as well as provide a space for students to contribute on campus," he explains.

Through campus initiatives, such as Upcycle, student awareness and knowledge on the adverse environmental impacts of fast fashion will increase. Regardless of the intention a student has upon entering an Upcycle event, they leave with more information about the fashion industry than when they entered the room, and according to Myers, " [students] are supportive of the idea...and the contribution they can make by reusing clothing."

This campus-wide initiative is a step towards a greater understanding of the fashion industry and the impact it has beyond the individual. Through acknowledgement and cognizance of the ongoing fast fashion phenomenon, students have the power to change their own behavior and encourage others to change theirs for the interest of a sustainable future.

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Muhlenberg hosts prestigious media undergraduate conference

By Sydney Coplin
News Editor

On Friday, Apr. 12 And Saturday, Apr. 13, students and faculty from across the globe gathered in Seegers Union to hear an array of student research presentations as part of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies Undergraduate Conference, or SCMSU.

Dr. Elizabeth Nathanson, Associate Professor of Media & Communication, and Dr. Amy Corbin, Associate Professor of Media & Communication and Film Studies, were the co-chairs of this event, due to their previous affiliation with the main organization, The Society for Cinema and Media Studies. Nathanson has been attending this conference since 2006.

"I have presented at the main conference," notes Nathanson. "The main conference has become a really important space for me, as a scholar, to present work and connect with a larger scholarly community."

With a goal of allowing students to also engage in this networking and scholarly opportunity, Nathanson and Corbin contacted the main organization, and planned on hosting the conference here next year. Around Thanksgiving time, however, they were informed that the previous institution that was supposed to host the conference dropped out, so it would now be here at Muhlenberg even sooner than they expected.

After receiving over 100 applications with a limited amount of space, the final conference ended up consisting of just over 30 students.

"I was impressed and surprised and thrilled to see how wide ranging the institutions were that were represented," says Nathanson. "We had a student from Hong Kong, Canada, and a bunch from California."

In addition to the diverse and international range of students, there were also two Muhlenberg students: Hannah Meyer '19 and Elizabeth Cugnini '19.

Cugnini and Meyer each presented during one of the nine sessions that took place throughout the weekend. Meyer presented her paper, *"Period Sex: Mediated Unrulines in Crazy Ex-Girlfriend"* during the "'Crazy,' 'Monstrous,' and Disruptive Femininity'" session on Friday. Dr. Nathanson encouraged her to apply after writing this paper for the Feminist Media Studies course.

"I knew that I wanted to write about Rachel Bloom′s show, *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend,* because it pushes the boundaries of feminist satire," says Meyer. "I was particularly drawn to the song ″Period Sex″ because it was banned from appearing on the show directly and was posted on Rachel Bloom′s YouTube channel. I′m interested in the power that comedy has in revealing and satirizing gendered and society conventions, as well as the limits that networks like the CW place upon the limits of satire."

In addition to her experience at the conference, Meyer also sees the value that this experience could potentially bring her in the future.

"Conferences and academia in general are both micro-utopias. The politics of humor has been something that I′ve been interested in for a long term and is something that I would certainly consider pursuing in grad school," Meyer notes.

Cugnini's paper, *"Distortions of Time in and Around the Cult Film Wet Hot American Summer,* was during the "Queer and Trans Realities and Mediated World-building" session also on Friday.

"I am in the Media Communications Honors Seminar and Dr. Chien, the director of it, recommended the conference to me," explains Cugnini. "I am working on this paper for class so I thought it was a perfect fit. To present about queer temporalities in film for a cinema and media studies conference worked perfectly. I am fascinated by cult films and what makes these films so special. So I started researching cult films I enjoy and *Wet Hot American Summer* was one of them. I love this film and I wanted to look into what makes it so special."

For students hoping to get involved in conferences like this in the future, Nathanson recommends local conferences, such as the Media Research Social Justice Undergraduate Conference, or other ways of collaborating and researching with faculty through research grants or independent studies.

"The whole experience was deeply rewarding," says Nathanson, reflecting on this conference. "Seeing students from all over the place connecting around ideas, and connecting around a real desire to be critical of the media texts that surround us, and appreciate those texts. Seeing people who have never known each other have a few days of conversation purely from their own sense of curiosity was inspiring."

FROM **ACTION** PAGE 1

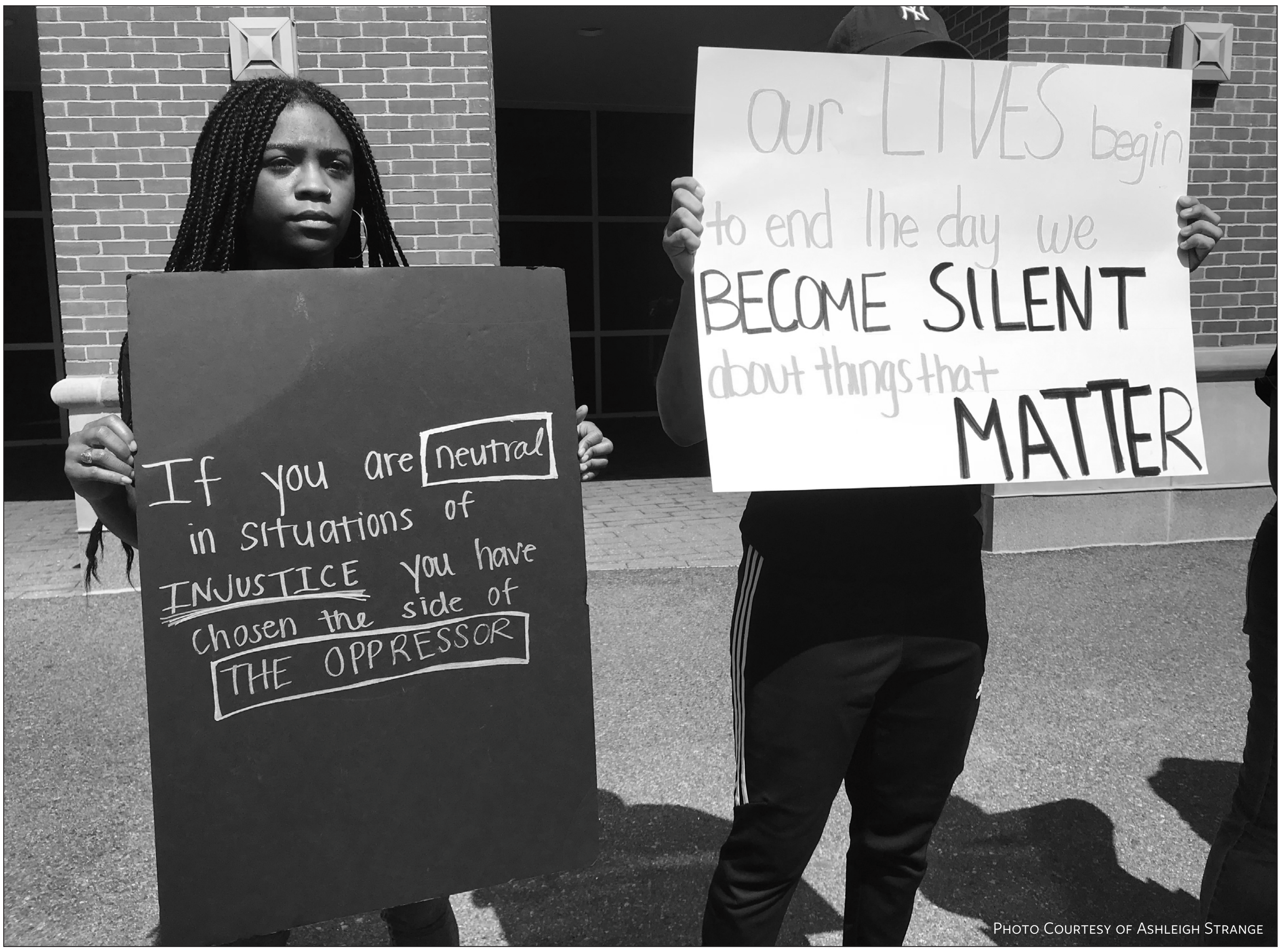

If you are neutral in situations of INJUSTICE you have chosen the side of THE OPPRESSOR
our LIVES begin to end the day we BECOME SILENT about things that MATTER

Photo Courtesy of Ashleigh Strange

Ayanna Costley '19 and an unidentified student display their signs during Saturday's protest.

those transgressions."

The Student Action Group communicated a number of their concerns with the school administration with regards to incidents of racial bias.

"[The demonstration] was also in part about saying there are holes inherently couched in this institution that has consistently left too much space for students of color to fall through the cracks," explains the group. "We are holding our administration responsible to us, because we, too, pay the tuition that keeps salaries paid and lights on. This demonstration asked that they be transparent with us, collaborative with us and be better to us. We sent the administration 10 demands and are currently in conversation about how we can best help them make change."

Gulati confirms receiving the group's demands.

"We′re going to continue to look at those requests, whether they′re related to racial representation on boards and in different processes on campus, things like the bias response education team or social judicial boards, things like that. How can we continue to diversify those groups? How can we adjust the language in our policies to be more clear to students who are looking for that language? So we′re working to address their specific concerns now and we also know that we have a diversity strategic plan at the college that has already provided us a roadmap with other areas the college wants to continue to improve, like the recruitment and retention of faculty of color. And so the college is going to continue working as hard as it can to make progress on those other goals as well. But we are going to try and address some of the immediate student concerns as quickly as possible."

Robin Riley-Casey, Director of the Multicultural Life Office and the Multicultural Center, addresses the demonstrators, saying, "I think there were a small group of students really coming together to think critically about some issues they want to address that were either personal to them or they knew of from their peers."

Ultimately, the Student Action Group recognizes that our campus still has a lot of work to do.

"Some participants were seniors who have been interacting with racially motivated occurrences since the YikYak incident and the town hall in 2015," they explain. "We have gotten emails expressing that changes have been made but then hear about another student of color being invisibilized. Whether that process of being made invisible takes form in an individual being suspended, being unable to finish classes, or incurring other traumas forcing them to leave, have their reports not adequately or transparently followed up on, etc: the persistence of incidents like these has made it increasingly clear that this is in fact a structural issue that needs attending to. And we plan on holding the institution to that.″

> “Art is not living. It is the use of living.”
>
> —Audre Lorde

Dance Emerge:

Expressionism from bodily movement

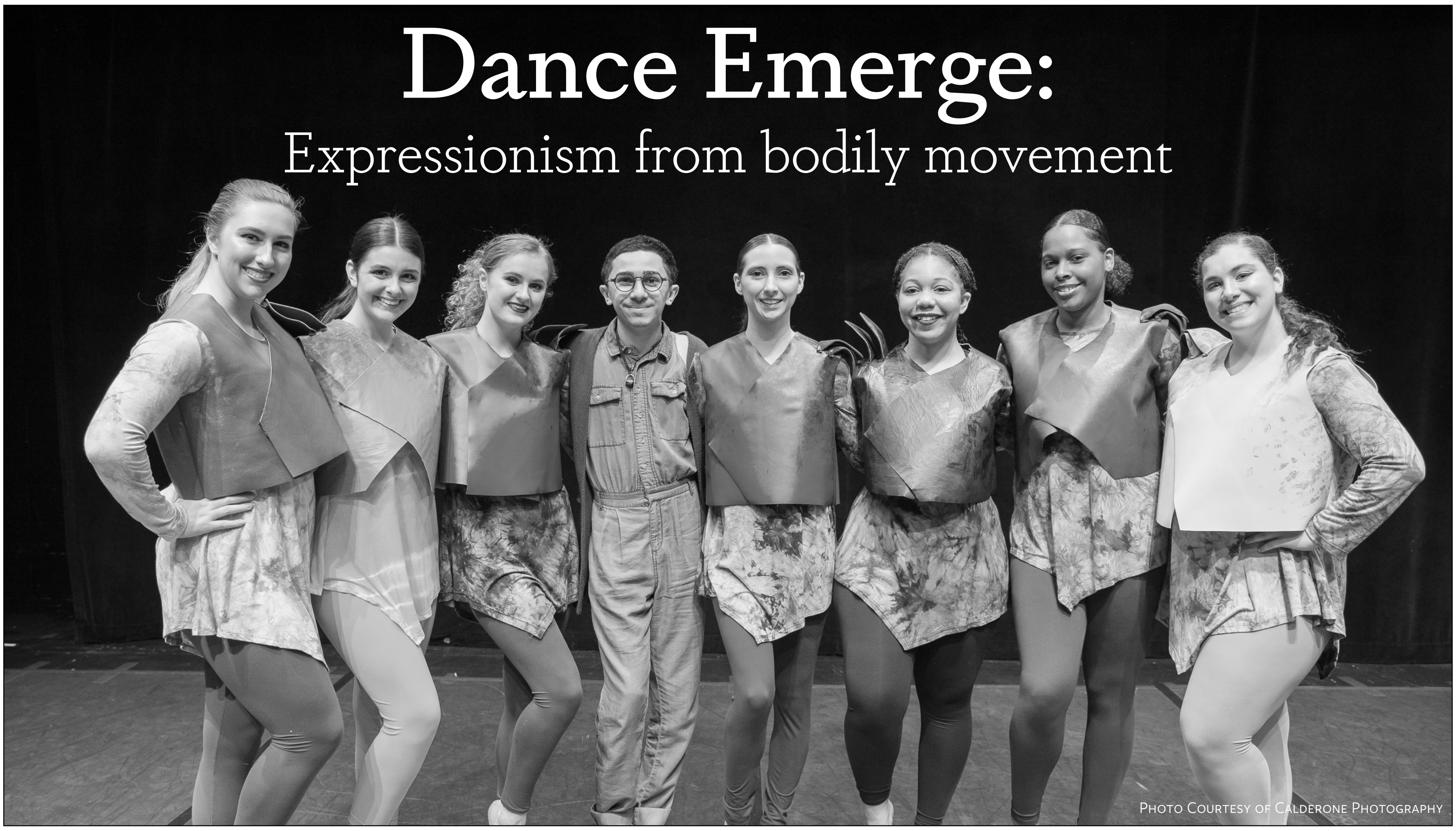


Photo Courtesy of Calderone Photography

Nate Rosario ‘19 poses with the dancers of his piece “Diaphanous Luster.”

By Ethan Forrer
Staff Writer

Emerging from the shadow of the spotlight came the artists whose canvas is the most intimate of all. It is this kind of powerful and visceral experience that you feel watching this year’s Dance Emerge performance. Openly abstract and emotionally empathetic, the dance exhibition demonstrates the innovative abilities of our dancers and choreographers as they lead you through a number of stories told through movement.

Dance Emerge is an annual, student directed and performed dance concert for emerging choreographers to show off their visions through innovative dancing. This year’s showing had seven pieces each with a range of performers, motifs and expressions.

The show started off with “Certain Uncertainty” choreographed by Abigail Linnemeyer ‘20, an eerie piece with seven dancers who each expressed feelings of anxiety and a lack of control over their own bodies as they danced worriedly around the stage.

Next was “Diaphanous Luster” by Nate Rosario ‘19, a mesmerizing piece where each of the seven dancers were clad in their own color and expressed that color differently through the subtleties of their movements and their interactions with the other dancers as they let the light flow through them.

Then there was “How to be Without” choreographed by Heather Downey ‘20. A romantically charged piece between two couples telling the stories of their relationship through dance, one of which started off as a nicely mutual relationship while the other was a heart-wrenching battle with one sided desire.

“Isochronic” was choreographed by Nikki Gagliano ‘19— a transitive piece starting off with each of the five dancers demonstrating their own isolated personalities through repeating their own sets of movements, but eventually coming together as one ensemble dancing with each other while still retaining their sense of individuality.

The next piece was “Inadvertent Intimacy” by Heather Dutton ‘20— a sexually charged and affectionately abundant piece with three couples, one of which takes center stage as they have the most trouble staying together and ultimately have to be helped by the other two couples.

Then came “Undounbeb” by Matthew Guerrera ‘19, an energetic piece set to Big Band-style jazz music with the largest cast out of the other performances— at 10 dancers— that uplifted the audience with the epicness of its execution which was worthy of its reflected title *Unbounded*. The intentional misspelling of the title is a statement about dyslexia, which was the theme of the dance.

The final piece was “Kayamim” by Karlie Lynn Zabin ‘20, its title meaning “exist” in Hebrew. This intense piece represents the loneliness and fear of being Jewish. One dancer, played the role of Jew and the piece explores her interactions with the other four dancers, who portrayed non-Jews, as they exclude her from their daily activities.

The pieces in this performance extenuated the more meaningful aspects to dance as an art form that you don’t typically see in other aspects of dance.

When asked what dance could do, Sarah Krsnak ‘21, a dance minor and member of the MDA, said that “all dance is expressing something, but it can be anything from an idea, to an experience, to birds.” She continued on to say that “anything can be a dance if you have movement to express it, and you can curate movement to express dance.”

This freer form of open artistic, particularly modern, dance gives the perfect outlet for these artists to express anything that they find important or worth expressing. This could be anything from Downey’s tragic love story to Guerrera’s piece about dyslexia or Zablin’s representation of Jewish experiences in our society.

An important aspect of this particular performance is that all the choreography for the pieces were done in collaboration with the dancers themselves. As mentioned before, dance is the artistic expression of one’s thoughts through the canvas of a human body, which means that essentially a dance involves two artists expressing something through one canvas. No dancer is without their own experiences in life and their own way of expression, making their individual contribution to the overall movement of the piece extremely important.

The only way to have such powerful pieces as the ones in this show, where you can feel the pain, joy or fear in every move, is when the choreographer and dancers work together to make something that they both fully believe in and are able to represent just as much within themselves as they express outward.

Pulling from a range of experience in the field, Dance Emerge seeks to help plant the seeds of artistic movement and shows off the fruits of these artists’ labor. Combining the efforts of dancers and choreographers, true expressions, feelings and concepts can be transmitted from movements of the dancers to the audience watching them in hopes to strike a chord with them and inspire them in a similar way to how dancing has inspired the performers.

Dance Emerge happens each year around April and it is the perfect time to see the effort and dedication our dancers can put into an artistic piece that takes a team a semester long to paint.

A Cappella Fest harmonizes audience

By Caya Greenspan-Layman
Contributing Writer

Julia Real/The Muhlenberg Weekly

Max Kasler ′20 leads the AcaFellas at last weekend′s A cappella Fest.

Muhlenberg’s largest a cappella event of the year, A Cappella Fest, was held on Saturday, Apr. 13. Muhlenberg’s a cappella groups, the gospel choir and four visiting ensembles performed for an audience of students, prospective students, parents and a cappella aficionados. The atmosphere was warm and welcoming as the spring-themed balloons and streamers on stage and audience members clapped along with the music and cheered for stunning performances.

A Cappella Fest was kicked off by hosts Max Kasler ‘20 and Gwen Wilkie ‘20. Before the performance began, they passed the mic off to Susan Williams, the executive director of the Allentown School District Foundation. The Muhlenberg a cappella community founded A Cappella Fest to support local schools’ music departments through the Allentown School District Foundation. Williams said donations from last year’s A Cappella Fest bought a piano for a local school, among other things. Audience members for this year’s A Cappella Fest were each five dollars. All of the proceeds from this year’s performance will support the William Allen and Dieruff high school music programs.

“It’s so important to us that we help ensure that the students in Allentown have the same opportunities to create that we are given as Muhlenberg students,” Kasler said about the partnership.

The program for A Cappella Fest described the staple event as a “way for the community to interact with groups outside of our own ‘Muhlenbubble’.”

In the spirit of that partnership, the first group to perform was the Allentown School District Select Choir. They started one song by rubbing their hands together, snapping and clapping to create the effect of rain. When they sang the signature opening chords of “Africa” by Toto, the audience exploded into cheers. When they finished performing, the applause was even louder.

The Muhlenberg Gospel Choir brought down the house with a rendition of “Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land.” Girls Next Door performed “When the Party’s Over” by Billie Eilish in a quiet rendition which did not feature a soloist but focused on intricacies of harmony between all the members. The AcaFellas sang “Fireflies” by Owl City which caused the audience to wave their phone flashlights and light up Empie. InAcchord, the Chaimonics, the Dynamics and Noteworthy enchanted the audience with songs that showed off their comradery and skill.

The guest groups were welcomed warmly by everyone present. “This year we are hosting Strictly Speaking from Providence College, Pitches Be Crazy from SUNY Cortland, and The Suspensions from Westchester University. I’m so excited to have them because collegiate a cappella groups are all about creating art together, and seeing what art gets created from other universities is always fun,” Kasler said. Each group brought their own unique style to the stage and was cheered by their enthusiastic audience.

The music was well done and everyone present enjoyed the show. It was a great opportunity to see the talent of the Muhlenberg community as well as that of the greater Allentown community and other colleges.

A Cappella Fest has been a staple among a cappella events since it’s founding—here’s to many more successful years!

A glimpse inside the Red Door Play Festival

By Arielle Moss
Asst. Arts & Culture Editor

Last weekend the semesterly Red Door Play Festival (RDPF) hit the stage, from Friday, Apr. 12 to Sunday, Apr. 14. The festival consisted of 10 student directed and performed plays.

I had the opportunity to see two of the plays: *Check Please: Take 2* and *Prelude to Thirty-Five*.

Check Please: Take 2 is the sequel to Jonathan Rand’s play, *Check Please*. Like its predecessor, the sequel also features short scenes of first dates gone wrong. The performances of *Check Please: Take 2* were directed by Kiana Holmes ‘22. Scenes included a man on a first date with a foot-reading psychic, a first date with someone who can not get off of their phone and a date with a man who loves to do everything the “extreme.”

According to *Check Please: Take 2* actor Josh Ackerman ‘22, auditions required a prepared one minute monologue that was to be performed in front of a panel of directors of all the different RDPF productions. After the monologue, directors then have about two minutes of callbacks to have actors read a short monologue or scene from their show. The directors raise their hands and then Desmond Reifsnyder ‘22, the RDPF coordinator, calls on them. Actors can select which shows they want to be considered for and can rank them in order of their preference.

The rehearsal process is different for each play. Each play rehearses individually with their casts, director and stage manager. “My show has a lot of improv so we would start each rehearsal with different improv exercises which was really fun,” said Ackerman.

In the play, Ackerman was cast as different characters: Hank, Lyle, Dewey, Alex and Paul.

Ackerman said that one of his favorite parts of the show was getting to play so many different characters.

“It was a really awesome challenge playing so many different characters and figuring out how to make each one different from each other,” Ackerman said. “It was especially fun exploring these characters because each one is crazier than the next. From pretending to speak different foreign languages, to doing everything to the extreme, to a pirate, to a guy with five wives!”

Another one of Ackerman’s favorite parts of being in the show was getting to work with such an amazing cast and crew. “I loved getting to know everyone and we all had so much fun together. It was one of our actor’s first time ever being in a show and it was really awesome getting to share this gift of theatre with him,” said Ackerman.

Caroline Kinney ‘21 was another actor in *Check Please: Take 2*, and she also loved working with the people involved in the play.

“I′ve always considered myself a dramatic actor, so it was so fulfilling to be able to show my more comedic side and play off of scene partners who were equally as funny,” said Kinney.

Although Ackerman thought it was fun playing five different roles, he found it also very challenging, because of his many costume changes. Sometimes he only had about 10 seconds to change his entire outfit.

“You could barely even see the floor backstage since it was full of costumes,” said Ackerman.

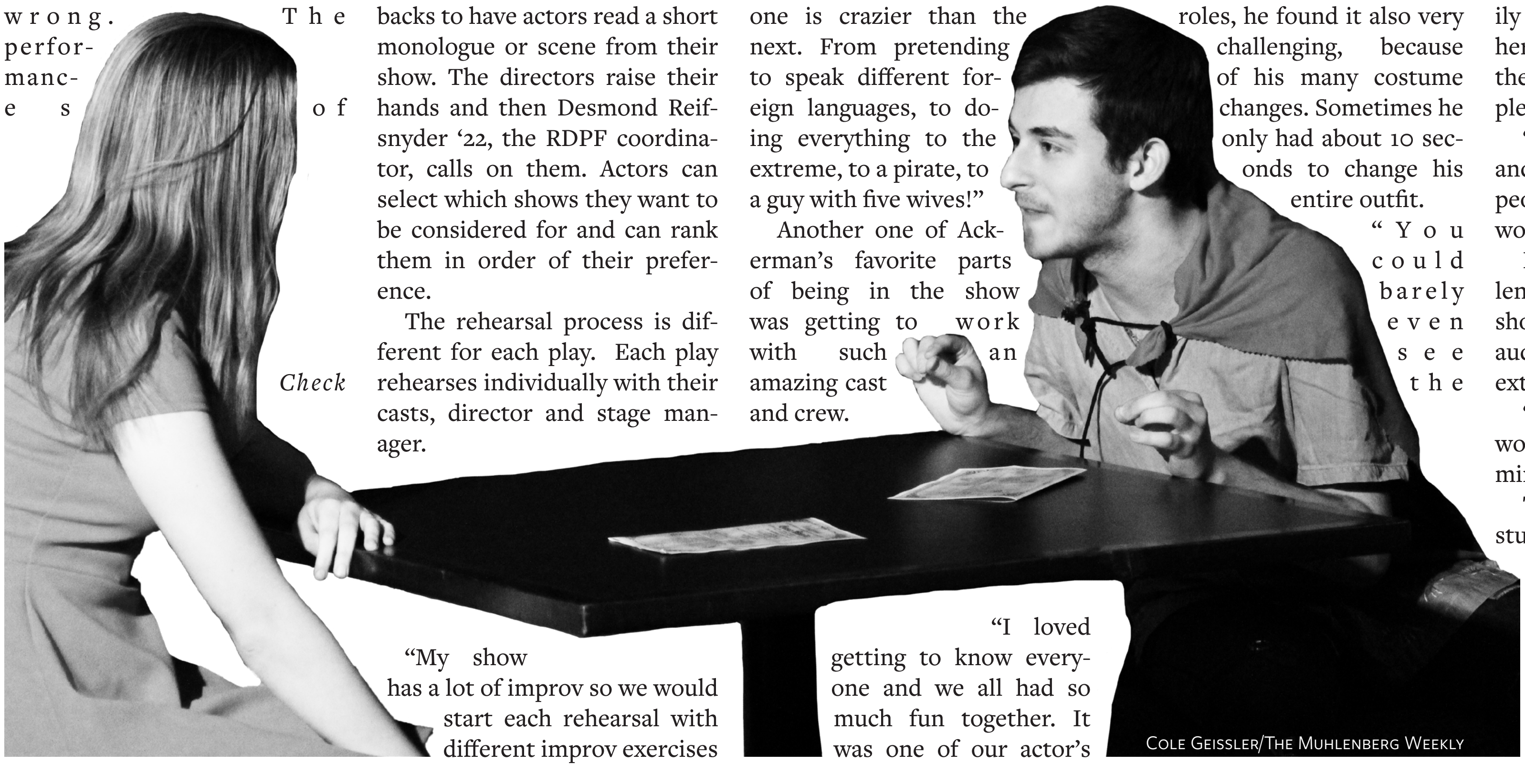
Seth Kramer’s *Prelude to Thirty-Five*, directed by Margaret Mustion ‘22, was different than *Check Please: Take 2* as it was focused only on two characters and did not involve as many costume changes. The play focuses on the story of Jay and Rae, immediately after a rift in their relationship, due to Jay not accepting Rae’s marriage proposal. Rae leaves Jay and responds stubbornly when Jay tries to get her to come back. The play ends with Jay proposing to Rae. Emily Kirchner ‘22 (Rae)—said that her favorite part about being in the show was meeting the people involved.

“My director, stage manager and castmate are all wonderful people and it was a pleasure to work with them,” said Kirchner.

Kirchner said that the challenging part about being in the show was making it clear to the audience that Jay and Rae had an extensive history.

“We had to establish years worth of chemistry within 20 minutes,” explained Kirchner.

The RDFP not only allows students to build connections, but also gives aspiring actors the opportunity to perform in the cozy environment that is the Red Doors. All of the students involved should be proud of their job well done!


Cole Geissler/The Muhlenberg Weekly

Into the realm of Indian Classical Music: Ken Zuckerman

By Lauren D. Mazur
Arts & Culture Editor

Every spring semester the virtuoso Ken Zuckerman comes to Muhlenberg's campus to perform as well as give a workshop over his vocal and performance technique. It's a wonderful opportunity to see a master of his craft in person—learning his ways of performance, rhythm technique and further mastery over the ragas passed to him orally.

To those unfamiliar with classical Indian music, the instruments played in Zuckerman's concert were the sarod (played by Zuckerman), the tablas (small drums) and the Tanpura. The Tanpura, while not physically there, was played through a recording Zuckerman brought along with him in his travels; the instrument serves as a resounding drone throughout the performance, providing the tonic note as a means of guiding the improvised pieces that are about to be performed.

In general, notes within the ragas performed are all within "relation to the tonic," Zuckerman explained, "all the intervals are tuned to perfect [these] relations."

Both the Tanpura and the Sarod apply to this notion as they both are stringed instruments used to guide as well as explore the ragas being performed. However, what is a *raga* and why is it important?

A raga, generally, consists of certain notes within a certain 'scale'—all of which performed within a certain rhythmic pattern. Each raga is performed differently, the goal being to follow the guidelines of the scale and pattern in question—while also creating completely improvised pieces. It is a performance of intense virtuosity, passion and mental concentration.

> **"The process of learning ... music by ear; listening to them play ... I still am not finished."**

'Scale,' however, is not the most accurate term to describe a raga. A scale generally is a series of notes generated in a single motion—upward or downward. A raga however, differs and varies in motion, ornamentation and its very structure. A raga is defined by not only the notes, but the order they are played, as well as the means in which they sound.

"By limitation, I would revise that to say rules," said Zuckerman, when describing the concept of ragas, "once you know the rules then you'll find there are no limitations."

Zuckerman shared with us the long and rigorous process that's involved in studying the art of Indian classical music. "You are totally dependent on a teacher for your repertoire," Zuckerman shared, "the process of learning...music by ear; listening to them play... I still am not finished."

Zuckerman continued to explain the 'meter' that is used throughout practiced ragas; except his way of teaching reflected this influence of listening to learning through pure visual medium. Using a series of syllables such as "ta ka" and "ta ka di mi," the audience was soon able to shift from five-four to seven-five rhythmic structures. While difficult, it was remarkable to see the progress the audience demonstrated through only listening and repeating after Zuckerman.

The third instrument, which accompanied Zuckerman's sarod playing, was the tablas player. Two drums are used to play a distinct rhythmic cycle—which also serves as a means of defining the raga in question. Each raga follows its own certain rhythmic cycle that reflects not only its compositional style—but the intention of the composer.

Cole Geissler/The Muhlenberg Weekly

Artist of the Week: Zeke Timen

By Ellen Powers
Staff Writer

This week, the Muhlenberg Weekly got a chance to sit down with Zeke Timen '21, the program director for WMUH, Muhlenberg's radio station.

The Muhlenberg Weekly: I'll just start with the basics, what do you do at WMUH?

Zeke Timen: I'm the Program Director, which means in addition to my two-hour show every Wednesday I am in charge of all student scheduling and am in charge of the service hours for the club. We run on a volunteer basis for putting together our concerts that we put on throughout the semesters, and for finding substitutes when someone can't do their show.

TMW: How did you get started with that? Did you have experience with radio before Muhlenberg?

ZT: Completely by accident. On the first weekend of school I walked into the activities fair and I went to the WMUH table, and they had a really cool t-shirt. I said it was cool, and the person sitting at the table said I could get it for free if I wrote my name on the interest sheet. So then I got a free t-shirt and I thought "Okay, I'll get an email about radio, but I don't think I'm actually going to do it." But then the meeting was on a Thursday night and I had nothing better to do, so I went. I thought I might as well audition for radio, and now here I am, a year and a half later, Vice President of the club. I fell in love with it while I was working on it.

TMW: So you had to audition for it? How does that work?

Melissa Reph/The Muhlenberg Weekly

Zeke Timen '21 peruses the WMUH record library.

ZT: Yep! I had to go in and get trained by a student who already had experience working the programs. It was Brandt Sunter ['20]. He showed me how to use the machines, how to talk into the microphone, the proper way to give a station ID, which is 91.7 FM WMUH Allentown, The *Only* Station that Matters. You've got to say all of those different parts in any order. He recorded me playing music, crossfading songs and reading a public service announcement and a station ID. Then the program director and president at the time decided I was good enough, or at least not horrible enough, to have them put me on air.

TMW: How did you come up with what you play during your two-hour show? Do you stick to a genre? Have you changed it over time?

ZT: Definitely. My show is called *To Be Determined*, so each week I determine a theme for that week, whether it's a genre, an artist, a year or a decade or just a mood. Tonight, I played "night driving songs" so everything was kind of synth-heavy and had this bright, nocturnal-sounding production to it. But last week, I did a "Fake Beatles Week" so the first hour was all songs that sounded like they could have been by the Beatles, but they weren't, and the second hour was all covers of Beatles songs by other artists. So it changes every week, and I play everything from jazz to hip-hop to acoustic folk to classic rock. Everything, really.

TMW: How many different DJs do you have?

ZT: Okay, so we're on air with programming 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Some of our content is automated or pre-recorded, but most of it -- I'd say upwards of 16 to 18 hours a day -- is live. We have a combination of student DJs, 30 this semester, and community staff, local Allentown adults, some of who went to Muhlenberg or go to Muhlenberg part-time, others who just love non-commercial college radio and are just really about the community experience that radio gets to provide for people. They come in and they play their two-hour slots.

TMW: Is there anything about what you do or WMUH that you want to talk about?

ZT: I love radio because I love listening to music, and this is a great way for me to find out about what other people are listening to, plus the fact that every two hours you're in for something completely different. I have one friend who does a classic rock show, I have another friend who does heavy metal and ambient electronic show, I have another friend who does Latinx music. It's really everything in-between and around those genres too, so it helps me broaden my taste, it helps me talk about music that I love with other people and it's just a really awesome way to engage with the community.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY
OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

Roped in and forced out

By Matt Riebesell
Managing Editor

This is probably the single article that I am least excited to write.

My journey with the paper, now that I think about it, compares very well to an animal being poached (or at least what I imagine that process to be like). I was spotted by the poacher, a.k.a. Sara Vigneri, the faculty advisor to The Weekly. I guess she saw potential through my Journalistic Traditions class assignments. She targeted me in the corner of class, lifted the tranquilizer, and fired. I woke up with my ankles tied to my wrists — a bind which I was never strong enough to break free from.

I will say once I became part of the editorial staff, the metaphorical rope which bound me together was loosened. I had my opportunities to flee. It would have been difficult, but doable. But I never did. I don't question why I didn't leave the unpaid role, which requires an absurd amount of hours, all while trying to manage other campus activities, being a student-athlete, and putting together somewhat competent assignments for class.

Don't feel bad for me for a second. The thought isn't meant to seek pity. It is a testament to how amazing the people at The Weekly are, and the value I gained as part of such a talented and driven staff.

Let's start at the top. Chloe: working with you as my boss for two years has been nothing short of marvelous. Your perfection-or-nothing mindset is what keeps us both in the office later than we would like to be, but (more importantly) it's also the reason The Weekly has continued to flourish as a standout publication. You exemplify a human fact check, a critical characteristic for any journalist. Thank you for being flexible with my schedule and my preferences.

Layout has been my escape. No need to worry about A.P. style in layout. No need to think about copy editing in layout. Just see the pages forming on the screens. With that said, Emily, and Ji are two science people who only manage to escape New-Sci on Tuesdays. They also manage to do the work of 10 by themselves. I don't ask questions (mostly because layout doesn't enjoy questions... or anything other than odd music and interesting foods my uncultured taste buds have never come across). I just assume they will figure it out each week. And by "it," I mean everything. I assume they will produce a modern, polished, and pleasant-to-read paper each week — and so far, neither of them have made an "ass" out of "u" or "me."

The section and online editors — those who spend their Tuesdays in Seegers' basement with Chloe, Sara, and I — work throughout the week, chipping away at different tasks that would make Tuesday extend far into Wednesday morning if they weren't kept up with. Lauren, Brooke, Will, Melissa, Arielle, Jason, Laura, Sydney, and Alex, you have made my job absurdly easy because of your preparedness. The appreciation I have for you being able to answer "yes, I will do that," or "it is already done," is immense. Thank you for working so hard to do everything regarding stories, from thinking of intriguing ideas to editing a story's final copy.

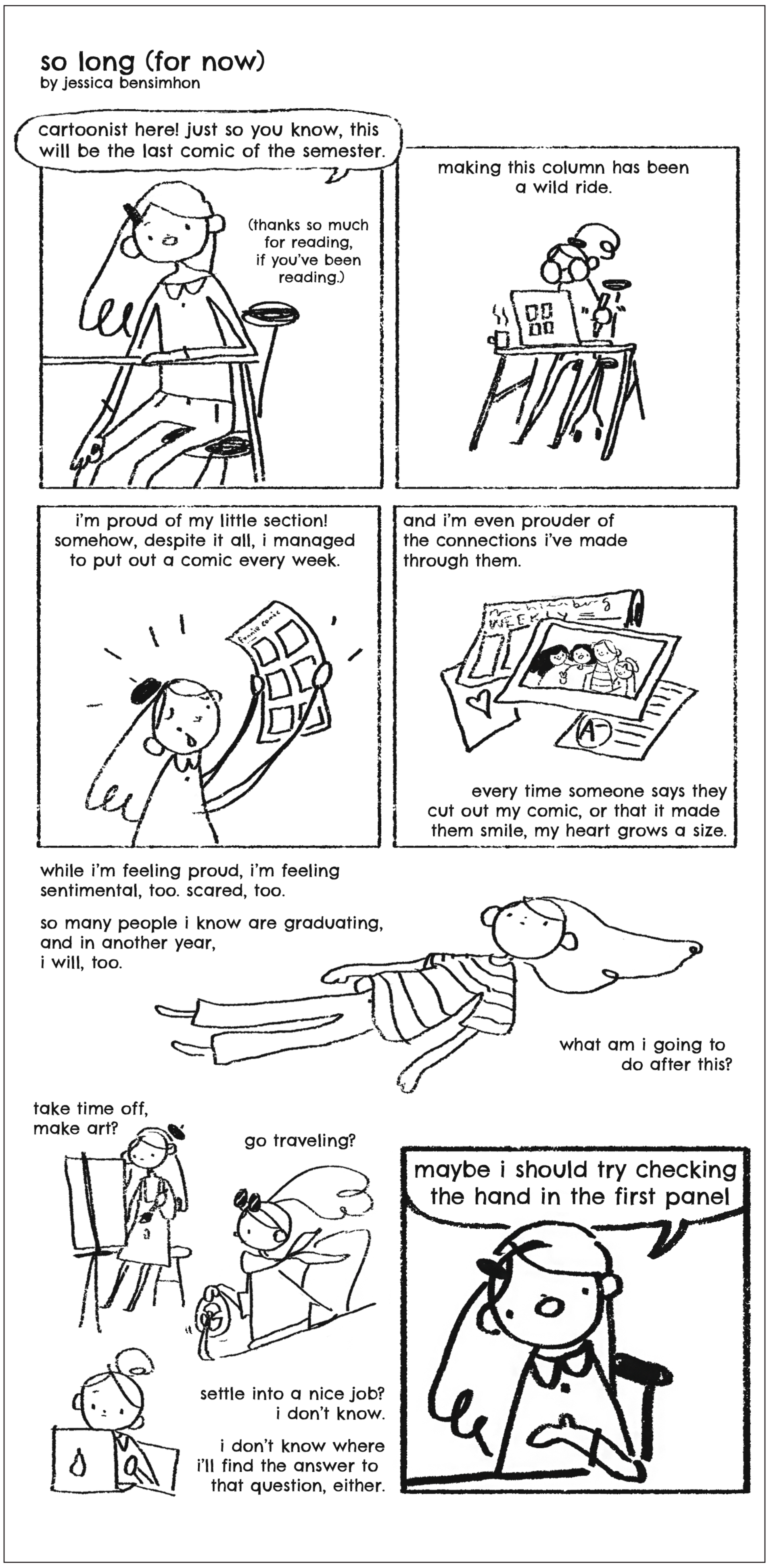
Honestly, I probably couldn't pick most of the writers on the staff out of a police lineup. But that is simply the responsibility of the position I hold. That does not mean, though, that their energy and proficiency should be ignored. The writers of this staff, no matter their title or experience, have done a fantastic job using this publication for exactly what it is intended to be - a stage for writers to learn and grow while producing quality content pertaining to Muhlenberg College.

And to Sara, you were the poacher, but I forgive you. You did not seek my person only to steal my writing abilities and discard the rest of my worth. You have taken time to mentor me through job searches, courses you did not even teach, and life as well. My office rants are able to go on because of you questioning why I think what I think. I think you have made me a deeper thinker, and a fantastic skeptic. I appreciate how you will stay until the end of production each Tuesday and seek my professional Candy Crush advice.

As for the future of The Weekly, the depth of brilliant people within this organization is solid. There are genuinely a handful of people who I am confident are wonderful leaders in this group, even though there may not be as many fancy titles as qualified individuals. Acknowledge the top-to-bottom strength of this group and appreciate what is now their publication.

Unfortunately, I won't be able to be a part of the success and progress this next group creates, as I am sure they will. But hey... if anyone has any suggestions on cool things to do on Tuesdays, let me know.

*I know there are Oxford commas in this piece. I instructed editors to leave them in. I hate the technicalities included in AP Style, therefore I hate the subtraction of Oxford commas... there, I said it.


so long (for now)
by jessica bensimhon
cartoonist here! just so you know, this will be the last comic of the semester.
(thanks so much for reading, if you've been reading.)
making this column has been a wild ride.
i'm proud of my little section! somehow, despite it all, i managed to put out a comic every week.
and i'm even prouder of the connections i've made through them.
every time someone says they cut out my comic, or that it made them smile, my heart grows a size.
while i'm feeling proud, i'm feeling sentimental, too. scared, too.
so many people i know are graduating, and in another year, i will, too.
what am i going to do after this?
take time off, make art?
go traveling?
settle into a nice job? i don't know.
i don't know where i'll find the answer to that question, either.
maybe i should try checking the hand in the first panel

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

To my family at The Weekly

By Chloe Gravereaux
Editor-in-Chief

Suddenly, all is quiet. It was the point of the night when the bustle of the student newsroom, the shouts of "one last edit" or "the Google Doc is linked!" or the squeak of wheely chairs skitting across the floor dwindled down into the sound of GQ wrappers crinkling. I'm sitting off to the side, writing a discussion post that's due at midnight, while the rest of the staff sits around the white square table in the middle of the room, eating the meals they've gotten with the GQ vouchers we get in exchange for advertising. Some of Emily's K Pop is playing softly in the background. Maybe it was Will Wamser who asked first, or Ji Ku, but suddenly all the editors were going around the table, each taking turns asking each other the same question: what are you doing over spring break?

"It's like we're a family," said Emily, with just a hint of sarcasm, a fork in her chocolate cake, "having dinner together, talking about our break."

I ducked my head into my computer screen. I was hiding a smile. *She gets it.*

To say my last four years at The Weekly have been chaotic would be an understatement.

It became less about journalism, less about 'the paper' and more about the people.

It's all been a blur of looming deadlines, grabbing sources, articles falling through, midnight updates, 2:00 a.m. copy edits, one last change...

And it's all been worth it. Because in the end, it became less about journalism, less about "the paper" and more about the people.

I was a commuting student for my first two years at Muhlenberg. I didn't have a hall or a roommate — and I was convinced I didn't want one. Icebreakers that year always consisted of asking "What dorm do you live in?" In an environment where people would immediately group you into the "quiet" (Brown) the social (Prossor) or the semi-normal (Waltz), I was uncategorized. My place on campus wasn't in the freshman quad, but in the basement of Seegers in The Weekly office. Instead of a freshman hall, I found myself every Tuesday night in the The Weekly office, with Greg, Jack, Lauren, Holden and Alyssa.

My little family started just with those five. Then came Brooke, Sara, Emily Davidson, Melissa, Ian, Will, Emily Drake. Then Alex, Laura, Jason. With each new edition to the staff, a new generation of The Weekly was born. More laughter. More inside jokes. More colorful post-its in various handwritings appeared on our "quote wall" with phrases like: "carrot on a stick!" or, my personal favorite (said by the editor-in-chief my freshman year): "the only reason I'm here is because Beachbody Bootcamp was canceled!" While making a video for The Weekly, I taped up old foamboard articles to the the bright red door we share with the student lounge and performance space, where the sound of Rocky Horror picture show often drifts through and causes us all to groan in agony.

This office became our home. Four years later, our masthead has swelled to nearly three times that size — the growth I've kept track of, not in the staff photos, the size of our group chats or the font size on our masthead, but the number of treat bags I buy on holidays to thank editors for spending their "special" days in production.

The family we have now is an incredible one, I realize. I'm the frazzled but loving mom. Matt is the stepdad who's tired of everyone's crap. Lauren is the eccentric aunt. Will is the odd cousin. Emily is the stubborn younger sister. Ji is the ever-happy middle child. Alex is the office puppy. Jason is the older, jock brother. Laura is the sassy, fashionable younger sister. Sydney is the sister-in-law who quietly wonders what she married into. Melissa is the aunt who shouts a DC comic reference from the corner of the room. Jess is the epitome of adorable, the artsy aunt in a french beret. Arielle sits curled up and takes it all in. Karly and Jarrett are the family comedians. And Sara, our advisor, does her best to keep us all in line. And I look across it all and think of who they'll all become, what new generation will take shape when the wonderfully wordy and gifted Brooke takes the reins next year.

My place on campus wasn't in the freshman quad, but in the basement of Seegers in The Weekly office.

As I, like my predecessor, pull the door closed for one last time, I look back at the room where I spent every Tuesday since October of my freshman year. I hope to — or, should I say, threaten?— one day return for one hell of a family reunion.

At the end of the line:

A few parting words

By Lauren D. Mazur
Arts & Culture Editor

I honestly never thought I would be here. Of course—I knew, but it didn't seem real until *now*. Now, as I write my last article for The Muhlenberg Weekly. I first joined the Weekly the second semester of my Freshman year—and I was *so* excited. Was it all I thought it would be? In some cases, maybe not—in others, most definitely. Blood, sweat and literal tears are put into this paper, day in and day out, and every once in awhile I ask myself 'is this even worth it?'

But then I would get to *here*; the end of the line. And as the relief settles into my very being, I realize how *proud* I am. It is amazing how far this paper has come, and I thank circumstances that I was able to see it grow every step of the way. As I think back though, this paper has been my one true constant in my four years here at Muhlenberg. Friends come and go, classes begin and end, homework is not as eternal as we think it is, and even the campus itself changes shape over time. Yet every Tuesday production rolls around, on the dot, and all of these people from different backgrounds gather to work on this one glorious project. Students who would probably not know each other if it wasn't for the paper.

To the Weekly I say, treasure this. In the times when everything seems impossible, and terrifying, to a point where you just want to quit—remember that what you're doing here, what you're working for, is worth it. The Weekly is worth it.

During my sophomore year, I lost a very close family member—my grandfather, Peter Mazur. At the time, it was a lot to process. I felt unable to really comprehend what had happened and tried to continue my schooling as normally as possible. During a particularly stressful production night, I ended up having to write an unorthodox article to fill my section. I decided to write about death as a concept in art and literature.

The process itself was very therapeutic; I ended up writing a personal message for my grandfather—despite the article being primarily about Dante's Inferno. I cried for a long time that night.

The article remains a very important memento to me, and I find myself re-reading it when I feel the most vulnerable. It's become one of my treasures—and I suppose this is my point.

Each person who contributes to the Weekly has these little treasures, moments where we feel we need, we must, write for someone to read and at least try to understand. So much emotion and passion is put into every issue—and every day we try a little harder to make it that much better.

But enough of my rambling; what do I leave you with now? Here, at the end of the line.

Words are your strength and your weakness. Embrace them as they are. They are our means of communicating are deepest fears and passions; however, it is often difficult to always know the right words to say. It's important to never forget this. When a writer comes to you for help, you as an Editor are there to help them.

Entertainment is essential. After those long hours of writing, reading, editing and re-reading—don't forget some music. Engage in conversation. Maybe play a card game or two. Sometimes when we're working for hours on end—you need to make home out of the newsroom.

Environment is everything. We've developed such a positive and wonderful working team that always comes in ready for a new issue, a new topic, and a new chance for improving our sections. Don't take this lightly.

Know your limits. Sadly we can′t do everything at once. Recognize this, give yourself time, and always take care.

Love what you do. You do amazing work, and it *does* matter. Don′t forget that.

You′ve got this! I think this speaks for itself. All of you are so talented, smart, and so passionate about your lives. Own it. The Weekly is filled with yours and many other treasures that need to be polished and published for all of campus to read-and especially *learn*.

Here I am, at the end of the line, and I have just one more piece of advice to share.

This is your time my friends; make it count.

Editorial

Paris is burning

On April 15, the Notre Dame Cathedral, a testament to French Gothic architecture and a revered symbol of Christianity, suffered from extensive fire damage, the cause of which remains at this time unknown.

As soon as the news of the tragedy first broke, social media was ablaze with commentary. While many lamented the (potential) loss of centuries-old masterpieces, others challenged this public sentiment with important criticisms.

In a public statement, President Macron announced a fundraising campaign that would search for funds "beyond our borders." Wealthy patrons of the arts have already started opening their wallets to restore the cathedral. According to CNN, the three wealthiest families in France have already garnered over $700 million for restoration efforts. While this may sound heartwarming to some, the tale is bittersweet for many, because the reality is that France has already been extracting money from foreign countries for centuries.

Haiti is a prime example of this. According to Forbes, France owes the Republic of Haiti an estimated $21 billion in reparations. After breaking free of France's colonial shackles in 1804, Haiti was forced to pay reparations *to France* because of the economic loss of the slave colony. To this day, over 200 years later, France has yet to acknowledge the massive debt they owe to the country of Haiti, as the island nation continues to suffer from relentless poverty as a direct result of this blatant theft.

If the French bourgeoisie can drum up $700 million in only 24 hours to restore a building, then they can keep that same energy for the people of Haiti.

Baseball battles for playoff spot

Come from behind wins fuel team in current hot streak

By Alex Horowitz
Senior Staff Writer

Although Major League Baseball's season is just getting underway, the Muhlenberg Mules baseball team is in the final weeks of their 2019 season. They are enjoying a recent trend of success against Centennial Conference opponents as they head toward the finish line of the 2019 campaign. The Mules lost on Tuesday, Apr. 4 against Ursinus, but previous to dropping the two-run ballgame the squad won four consecutive games dating back to last week. A doubleheader win over McDaniel bookended by wins over Swarthmore, who was ranked ninth in the country by D3baseball.com launched the Mules into playoff contention with seven conference games to play.

"I would say that our recent success has come from having the right mindset, staying together and just having fun," said pitcher RJ Hennessey '19. "We have come in to these past games locked in ready to play. No matter what, we have not taken opponents lightly, regardless of their record. We know we have the talent to win a lot of games, it's just having the right mindset to compete, trust the guys around you and go out and battle. That's another thing, we all support each other and trust each other so that helps a lot on the field. We're just trying to have fun, on the field and in the dugout. We're hitting well, getting quality pitching and having fun doing it."

Chris Grillo '19, batting with a .343/.417/.480 slash line this season, believes the lineup he is apart of has also played a huge role in the Mules recent success.

"The offense has really come around compared to where it was in the beginning of the season," said Grillo. "Guys are really starting to understand their role in the line-up and what we individually need to do in order to be successful. Also, we have come together extremely well as a team after our tough start to conference play. We have had each other's back since starting 0-3 and I think the positive mindset we have had this past week has been huge."

The Mules still have nine total games remaining on the 2019 schedule, so it is more important than ever for the team to ride its recent hot start into the final stretch of this season. This current group of players has the positive mindset it takes to win ball games at the collegiate level, and it's evident in the results on the field and in the scorebook.

> **"The offense has really come around compared to where it was in the beginning of the season."**

"With the season ending at the end of the month, we are going to need to ride this momentum that we have built up over the past week and take it into the next couple weeks," said outfielder Seth Wasserman '19. "Our schedule definitely did not start out easy, but we put ourselves in a good position to be very successful if we can continue to do what we have proved to be capable of doing over the last week," Wasserman continued.

Muhlenberg baseball is looking for its first season with a winning record since 2015, when the team posted a 17-15 overall record, although sporting an 8-10 record in conference play. Regardless, there remains something special about this year's squad. They have a level of confidence not seen by the team in years, and that can be dangerous come the playoff stretch.

"We've always been a pitching and defense team. That has been the area we've been leaning on," said Hennessey. "However, we've been swinging the bats really well. Guys have been having great at bats and stringing together hits. We have to handle our business, stay focused and play good all around games hitting, pitching and defensively, and I really like our chances against anyone. Don't let the boys get hot, just can't let it happen."

Baseball is perhaps the most team oriented sport, in that one player's success does not guarantee the success of an entire ball club. In fact, because of the individual nature of each player's plate appearance or time at the mound, it requires a collective group of team baseball to be able to compile wins. This is a quality of the sport that the Mules recognize, and they understand it will take every player on this roster contributing at his highest level in order to achieve greatness.

"The most important thing that needs to remain consistent is all of us staying together as a team," said Grillo. "When we have all 40 guys bought in to our success, it is very scary as to what this team could do. We are in a great position to be playing deep into May but we have stay focused on taking one game at a time and not getting ahead of ourselves."

The baseball team's next game is Thursday, Apr. 18, in Collegeville, Pa. against the Ursinus Bears in Centennial Conference action as the matchup is the final meeting between the two programs in 2019.

Mules hit milestones

Meghan Olsen '19 and Kristy Selby '19 add the finishing touches to their athletic careers

By Samantha Brenner
Contributing Writer

Milestones are something every athlete strives to accomplish. Ending there college career strong, Muhlenberg seniors Kistry Shelby and Meghan Olsen are leaving their mark on the college and their respective sports, tennis and softball.

Kristy Selby, a veteran first baseman and pitcher on the Muhlenberg softball squad is proud of the accomplishment she made, but was not pushing for it. "It's really not about the personal achievements and milestones, but it definitely is rewarding to see that your hard work has paid off. I'm proud of myself and my fellow seniors for getting their 100th hit, but I know any of us would give it up in a heartbeat to make the conference tournament."

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Kristy Selby recorded her 100th hit as a member of Muhlenberg's softball team.

The softball team currently stands at 18-16, and with only a few games left for the season, Selby looks to soak up the last moments of the season and enjoy every second of it. "When our careers come to an end, the team success is so much more important than our personal success. That's what we will remember, how far we make it in our senior season. We want to finish off strong, make the tournament and set the stage for future Muhlenberg softball teams to come."

Selby appreciates the strong connections that her and her teammates have formed over the years playing together.

For Selby and her 100th hit, it is something she will never forget. "I'm from Maryland, and my dad took off of work and drove three hours just to come and see me get my 100th hit. I gave the game ball to my dad, because everything I do I couldn't do without my parents," Selby said.

Not only does such an accomplishment have an impact on the one reaching the mark, but it could have a tremendous impact on the young and fresh members of the team.

"These accomplishments inspire the younger team members to keep up the hard work, and see that the long hours and sacrifices are worth it. When your teammates see you accomplish something, I hope it shows them that they can do it also, and lets them see what they are capable of themselves. We have a strong group of players and I believe that every single one of them, given the opportunity, can be successful and accomplish these things."

For graduating senior and tennis star Meghan Olsen, she achieved her milestone of her 100th match at home against Bryn Mawr.

"I am extremely grateful to have reached this milestone and it is truly an accomplishment of mine that I will treasure. It has been a roller coaster with the Muhlenberg tennis program, but I am proud to say I have stuck through it all and never let any of it affect my role and position as a member of this team," Olsen commented.

This milestone came to Olsen as a surprise as she had no idea until afterwards that she had reached the 100 match mark.

"I did not find out until the article was made after our match. I think this milestone is very exciting and I hope to see some of my teammates reach this same milestone during their final years at Muhlenberg."

Accompanying Selby on the 100 hits list is Allyson Sweeney '19, who hit the mark with the line drive shot into right field in the first of the two meetings with Haverford.

All three highly skilled seniors are ending their final season's on a high note and leaving Muhlenberg's athletic program proud with an achievement they and their families can cherish forever.

Tubman’s year in review

By Alex Blum
Sports Editor

“Exciting, busy, overwhelming, enjoyable.”

The words Athletic Director, Lynn Tubman, used to sum up her overall experience as she enters the final two months of year one at the helm of Muhlenberg Athletics.

After nine gratifying years leading a DII athletics program at Chestnut Hill College in the Philadelphia area, Tubman, from the moment she was hired for the job, has been motivated in the growth of Muhlenberg and its athletics department.

“Muhlenberg is already an established, competitive program and I believe there is a strong foundation where there is an abundance of opportunity to continue grow and improve,” said Tubman.

“Being new in a position is always a challenge. There are many that are unexpected. Having to learn how an institution operates, learning the personalities of coaches, staff as well as the athletes,” added Tubman. “You must also become familiar with the culture of the community. However, I believe there is a solution to every problem and with a helpful support system, that solution can be found.”

In her time in Allentown she has truly learned a lot about the individuals who guide and teach the young, talented student-athletes. Praising their devotion to the growth of young athletes, Tubman said, “Muhlenberg has an extremely dedicated group of head coaches and athletic staff that are open to learning more about the institution as a whole. They are competitive, with drive for athletic success, who understand the big picture and the importance of being a member to the Muhlenberg community.”

Year one has virtually flown by, but it would not be complete without at least one surprise along the way. For Tubman and the staff who work quietly on the second floor of the Life Sports Center, the Bieber Bus Company ceasing their operations in February was perhaps the biggest of them all.

Working through the dire situation Tubman commented, “we had staff on the phones, making calls to make sure all our teams had transportation.”

Looking back on the 10 months at her new position, Tubman is always analysing and reflecting upon each and every decision that is made with improvement of the department at the forefront of attention.

While always envisioning ways for improvement, she understands that there s no tougher critic than herself. Although that may be the case Tubman says, “I try not to second guess myself or my decisions and look towards the past, but rather on how we can make those changes and improve things moving forward. I also think it is vital to make sure you have collected all the necessary information and not make a rushed decision.”

The short-term projects and goals, sought after by the department, are still in the assessment phase. Tubman and her staff will meet with all the Fall, Winter and Spring student-athletes and provide a survey which has found to be extremely beneficial as they provide feedback for improvement in bettering the development the student-athlete experience.

“This is why we are in the business; to provide the best student-athlete experience. It may be as small as improving meals on the road or transportation, but we are listening,” Tubman often offers as advice.

A long-term objective, identified by Tubman, is to devise a comprehensive strategic plan for Muhlenberg athletics. A plan that will outline their priorities surrounding “operating budgets, personnel, facilities and increasing revenue generation,” Tubman stated.

“We must also be prepared to discuss with the administration those priorities and make sure they align with the college’s,” she added. Once these discussions have been had, the door for long-term and immediate success will be unlocked.

As year two is around the corner, there is much that Tubman is looking forward to. “Continuing to grow, moving forward in a positive direction and progress,” Tubman noted. She also hopes the efforts being made behind scenes like those with Alumni Affairs and the College Committee on Fitness and Athletics become more visible to the Muhlenberg community.

In two months, Tubman will reach the one year mark at Muhlenberg and following her nine year stint at Chestnut Hill, the similarities between have been refreshing for her.

“Whether the institution is DI, DII or DII, many of them face the same challenges and ultimately have the same goals as well in providing the best educational and athletic experience for the student-athletes,” Tubman stated.

This feeling of similarity is enabling Tubman to perform to the best of her abilities. “It gives me the confidence that I can assist Muhlenberg in identifying where exactly we strive to be and how to get there, especially with student-athletes, coaches and staff who have the same goals in mind.”

As her rookie season comes to a close, Tubman looks to return for her sophomore year and improve upon the mark she left in year one and continue the advancement of Muhlenberg Athletics.

Track teams hit stride

By Noah Brill
Contributing Writer

The Muhlenberg track and field teams enjoyed tremendous success this past weekend at Moravian College’s Coach P invitational. Both the men’s and women’s teams ran astonishingly well, highlighted by Abby Dalton ‘22, who followed up last week’s masterful first place performance among the women’s group in the 800 meter run with a third place finish in the 1500. Her 4:46.18 time was good for the sixth fastest finish in program history and earned her a spot in the upcoming Athletic Regional Championship.

“To keep the momentum going it’s definitely going to take focus from 100 percent of the team on continuing to PR every weekend and get better. Some people might start to get zoned out with finals coming up and the end of the semester but if we stay focused on pushing through the end of the season with 100 percent focus we will see lots of success.” Samuel Morgan ‘22, who placed seventh in the 800 meter with a 1:56.58. “One of my teammates and I push one another to run faster. As a team success came from the training everyone has been putting in over the past few weeks.”

The runners had extra pep in their step since returning from their mid-season break. The team, which had most of March off following the Centennial Conference Championships, returned to action on Mar. 30 against Lafayette. At the meet, Jason Richwall ‘20 earned the third best finish in the 1500 meter and was the top performer among the men’s team. Another noteworthy performance was that of Corrin Ferrizzi ‘22, who also etched her name into program history with her sixth place finish in the long jump, the eighth best performance Muhlenberg has ever seen.

In addition, Abigail Wesolek ‘22 has also been climbing the leaderboards. Wesolek, a hammer thrower from McDonald, Pa., moved to second place on the all time list after becoming third in school history just one week prior. The women’s team in particular looks like they are benefitting immensely from a youth movement, which was likely ignited by the almost instantaneous impact of the Class of 2022 across many different sports.

Although their season may be nearing its conclusion, there is still plenty to look forward to. The squad will continue their season at the Greyhound Invitational, followed by the Carol and John Covert Classic, their last meets before the championships.

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hitting .405 his freshman year. He crossed home 119 times which is fifth best in the programs history. In two separate seasons the outfielder scored at least 30 times. He also has the fourth most hits (176) in a career, 54 of which were extra base knocks. His 14 homers are also fourth most in the baseball programs history. Draper employed a no fly zone in the outfields he patrolled with a fantastic .978 career fielding percentage.

On the gridiron, Draper finished his career on both of the leaderboards for receptions a yards received in a three season career.

Santagato was the most recent graduate inducted into the Muhlenberg Athletics Hall of Fame as one of the best quarterbacks to receive snaps as a Mule. He is one of two quarterbacks to ever have a completion rate above .600. Santagato’s 40 touchdown passes are fifth in Muhlenberg history, and 6,152 yards are third. Twice, Santagato has finished a season with over 2,000 yards - only three other Mule QB’s have been able to sustain that type of aerial attack.

A captain during his junior and senior seasons, the 2008 team won a Centennial Conference championship with Santagato under center. A two time Centennial Conference honeree, he was named honorable mention his junior season and first team in his senior year. Overall the teams Santagato played on won 25 games.

Finally, the 2005-06 women’s basketball team led by current Mules head coach Ron Rohn. It was the first of what is now eight CC championships during the Rohn era. The 05-06 team’s final record was 26-3, and went two seperate 11 game win streaks before falling to the eighth best team in the nation in the NCAA tournament. They excelled in close games, winning 14 of 15 games decided by 10 points or less, and they played lockdown defense, allowing 52 points per game.

> **“I loved being a student athlete. It was the life I knew as a high school student.”**

Two of the teams seniors, Tiffany Kirk ‘06 and Steph Coluccini ‘06 both consider the conference championship victory their favorite Muhlenberg memory. “We had worked so hard that year. I remember explicit moments in the game that helped us achieve of goal, and it was the ultimate culmination of years of dedication. I actually think I kissed the gym floor after that game,” explained Coluccini.

Overall, the pair is thrilled that the group is being recognized as a whole. “That season is one of my favorite memories in life. It felt great to hear that the school appreciates the hard work we put in and accomplishments we made that year,” said Kirk. “Because of the insane success of the team that year I did hope to be inducted in the Hall of Fame one day. I am extremely honored and thankful to be part of such a talented group of athletes,” she added.

Coluccini also recognized the 2005-06 team as the start of a new era of Muhlenberg women’s basketball. “Coach Rohn and his staff helped put Muhlenberg on the map for Women’s DIII basketball and I couldn’t be more proud.”

With this year’s inductees safely enshrined on the walls of the life sports center their legacies are sure to be remembered by everyone who walks through the building’s solar corridor. The recognition is well deserved for all of the impressive accomplishments. “Every student athlete deserves recognition because the dedication to do both takes a tremendous amount of time, effort and heart to keep pushing,” said Coluccini.

Statistics and player facts found on Muhlenberg College Athletics website.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Muhlenberg holds 2019 Hall of Fame Induction

College recognizes five individuals and one team for athletic excellence

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

By Matt Riebesell
Managing Editor

On Saturday, Apr. 13 Muhlenberg College's John Deitrich Field House hosted its annual athletics Hall of Fame ceremony for the 2019 inductees. This year's class featured five individual athletes representing and the 2005-06 Centennial Conference championship winning women's basketball team.

Karen Gratrix '91, Bill Holsinger '02, Angela Tyson '02, Chuck Draper '02, Eric Santagato '09 represent five different athletic programs, and both Draper and Gratrix were multi-sport athletes, playing baseball and football, and field hockey and softball respectively.

Gratrix was dominant in both of the programs she was a part of from 1986-1991. On the diamond, Gratix still ranks among the all time leaders for different offensive categories. She is currently 13th all time with 66 RBI in her career, and once had a six RBI game which ties for the second most in a single game ever. Gratrix also had a fantastic eye at the plate, finishing with 46 walks on her career which places her in the top 15 of all time.

Gratrix's defence also helped her stand out, as she finished with the eighth highest fielding percentage in program history (.980) as a first basemen. Her honors as a softball player include a first-team All-MAC Southeast nominations in 1990 and 1991 while earning all-region honors in her final campaign. During her time in the program the team had a record of 92-29 and made three NCAA tournament appearances.

As a member of the field hockey team Gratrix made the players around her better. She assisted 12 goals in the 1989 season, which still is the most assists in a single season. Overall Gratrix ranks tied for eighth all time on the assists leaderboard.

Gratrix joins her twin sister, Elaine Gratrix '89, in the hall after both sister's successful Muhlenberg softball and field hockey careers.

A standout on the mat, Holsinger and the teams he was on achieved great success. Debatably the best wrestler in the history of the college, Holsinger holds the career and single season record for wins with 118 and 37 respectively. He has 22 more wins than the next former Mule on the career win leaderboard. Holsinger also is tied for the program career record with 50 pins.

Holsinger was a leader on and off of the mat, and served as a team captain for three seasons because of that. Wrestling at 141 and 149 during his career Holsinger participated in the 2002 NCAA championships and finished 14 different tournaments in the top three.

Tyson was a force on the rubber for the Muhlenberg softball team. Her numbers stand out. She appeared in the third most games in program history (84), and recorded the third lowest ERA (2.14) as well. She is one of six pitchers to earn 40 wins in a career while throwing 65 complete games - one short of the program record.

Her time at Muhlenberg, though, meant more than the games played. "I loved being a student athlete. It was the life I knew as a high school student," said Tyson. "It was a great transition to enter college with a built in 'family' in my team and coaches. Many of my teammates are still close friends." Sweeping Moravian and the road trips on spring break and to away games were highlights, but a moment Tyson will never forget came at the end of her last game when she knew her stretch of time playing with her beloved teammates was over.

And how about this, even while throwing 12 shutouts she threw (fourth in the softball program's history), 503.2 innings pitched (second on all-time list) , and 302 strikeouts (third most all-time) tossed during her career, Tyson was not expecting the honors.

"I was shocked to be individually inducted. I thought initially that it was the 2000 team being inducted," Tyson said. "I am humbled and shocked and honored to be listed among other softball greats like Elizabeth Billie, the Gratrix sisters, and Becki Toth, among others."

Draper, the second two sport athlete inducted in 2019, stood out in baseball and football landing on the leaderboard for both sports.

On the diamond Draper was a career .356 hitter (10th all time),

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Coming up this week in
SPORTS
April 18 through April 20

Softball
Muhlenberg
vs
Franklin and Marshall
Saturday, Apr. 20 @ 1 PM & 3 PM
Cedarcreek Field

Track and Field
Greyhound
Invitational
Saturday, Apr. 20
Bethlehem, Pa

Men's Lacrosse
Muhlenberg
vs
Dickinson
Saturday, Apr. 20 @ 4:00 pm
Scotty Wood Stadium

Baseball
Muhlenberg
vs
Ursinus
Friday, Apr. 18 @ 3:30 pm
Collegeville, PA